



BRIEF



Members of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh take out a march on the occasion of the foundation day of Banaras Hindu University, in Varanasi, Saturday.

Hijab row

Mangaluru: The hijab controversy in Udipi district of Karnataka on Saturday spilled into the streets with a group of students of two junior colleges at Kundapur taking out a procession in the town wearing saffron shawls demanding ban on headscarves on the campuses. Hindu boy students of Kundapur junior college and R N Shetty college who staged the protest, said they will continue to wear the shawls if Muslim girl students are allowed to wear hijabs.

Badrinath portals

New Tehri: The sacred portals of Badrinath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district will be opened at 6.15 am on May 8, priests here announced on Saturday. Dedicated to the Hindu God Vishnu, the Himalayan temple is closed every year at the onset of winter and reopened at the start of summer. It remains snow-bound throughout winter.

Mishap

Gopeshwar: Three persons were killed when the car in which they were travelling fell into a deep gorge in Chamoli district, authorities here said on Saturday. The vehicle was on its way to Ghuni from Ramni village Friday night when it fell into the gorge near Ghat area, District Disaster Management officer NK Joshi said. The bodies were recovered on Saturday morning.

Earthquake

Srinagar: A 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, but there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said. The epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 9.45 am, was at the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. Strong tremors were felt in Jammu and Kashmir, they said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to enquire about the situation in the union territory following the earthquake.

Arrested

Jaipur: Two alleged drug smugglers were arrested on Saturday in Rajasthan's Churu district with 425 kg of a narcotic substance with an estimated market price of Rs 20 lakh, police said Saturday. The duo was carrying 'doda chura' (opium produce) in a truck under the guise of banana from Madhya Pradesh, heading to Haryana to deliver the consignment, they said.

Weather

High 28 Low 11

India doesn't have a PM but a king: Rahul

Alleges Modi left farmers on roads amid Covid

Kichcha (U'khand), Feb 05 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of leaving protesting farmers on roads for a year amid the pandemic and alleged India now has a king who believes people should keep quiet when he makes a decision.

Addressing farmers at a rally here, Gandhi said the Congress intends to provide a government that works in partnership with farmers, the youths and the poor.

"If a prime minister does not work for all he cannot be a prime minister. By that measure, Narendra Modi is not a prime minister," he told



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaks during the Uttarakhandi Swabhiman Rally ahead of the Uttarakhand Assembly elections, in Haridwar, Saturday.

the 'Uttarakhandi Kisan Swabhiman Samvad' rally here. Citing the example of the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh, he said farmers approached it for loan waivers and that was done within 10 days. A loan waiver worth Rs 70,000 crore was given to them. "It was not a dole or

a free gift. We did it because you work 24 hours for the country," Gandhi said. "The Congress never shut its doors on farmers... We want to work in partnership with farmers, the poor, labourers so that every section feels it is their government," the former Congress chief said.

He accused Modi of leaving the farmers on the road amid Covid and cold for a year and not inviting them to listen to their grievances. "India does not have a prime minister today. It has a king who believes that when the king takes a decision everyone else should keep quiet," Gandhi alleged.

Referring to the wealth gap in the society, the Congress leader spoke about "two Indias" with such income disparity which is "not seen anywhere else". "We have one India of rich industrialists, five-star hotels and Mercedes cars and another India of the poor and the unemployed where inflation is rising. A select group of around 100 people have as much wealth as 40 per cent of India's population. Such income disparity is not seen anywhere else," he said.

Centre to purchase 5 cr doses of Corbevax Covid vaccine

Each costing Rs 145 sans tax

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTI):

The Centre has placed a purchase order with Biological E for five crore doses of Covid vaccine Corbevax each costing Rs 145 excluding taxes, official sources said on Saturday.

The government is yet to decide on which segment of beneficiaries this new vaccine would be administered.

However, according to sources, discussions are underway in technical groups and in the Health Ministry's immunisation

division about expanding the scope of the precaution doses which are currently being given to healthcare and frontline workers, and comorbid senior citizens.

The HLL Lifecare Limited, a public sector undertaking, has issued the supply order of Corbevax to Biological E in January-end on behalf of the Union Health Ministry.

According to the order, the Hyderabad-based company is expected to provide the supplies in February.

"The cost implication of five crore doses of Corbevax at the rate of Rs 145 per dose plus GST as

applicable come to Rs 725 plus GST as applicable.

"In this regard, it is also stated that Rs 1,500 crore has been released as advance vide sanction order dated June 2, 2021, to HLL Lifecare Limited for procurement of Corbevax from Biological E Limited," the order stated.

The government has told Parliament that any decision on expanding the list of eligible beneficiaries for precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination of children below 15 years will be in accordance with the recommendations of the NTAGI based on a review of the available scientific evidence.

'Not to be concerned by new experimentation being done by Pak'

Jammu, Feb 05 (PTI):

As Pakistan observed 'Kashmir solidarity day' on Saturday, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said India cannot be intimidated by new experimentation being done by our hostile neighbor by preparing toolkits to garner support across the globe.

He said if there is any pending issue between Pakistan and India it is that part of Jammu and Kashmir which continues to be under the illegal occupation of the neighbouring country.

Talking to reporters at the BJP headquarters here, the minister of state in the



Jitendra Singh

Prime Minister's Office said there is nothing to feel perturbed about it (Pakistan observing Kashmir solidarity day). We are well equipped to face any challenge.

He was responding to a

ATROCITY CASE

Cong MLA's husband surrenders before cops

Rajnandgaon, Feb 05:

The husband of a Congress MLA in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district was arrested on Saturday after he surrendered before the police in an SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities case for allegedly threatening a truck driver, an official said.

Chandu Sahu, the husband of Khujji MLA Chhanni Sahu, was arrested after he turned himself in before the police at the office of Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police here this afternoon, the senior official said.

He was produced in a local court this evening which sent him to judicial custody, he added.

Last December 8, an FIR was registered against Chandu Sahu under sections 294 (obscene acts) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal

What FIR states

Last December 8, an FIR was registered against Chandu Sahu under sections 294 (obscene acts) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with Chhuriya police station on the complaint of the driver, Beersingh Uikey, he said. As per the FIR, Chandu Sahu threatened Uikey of being involved in sand mining, despite the driver possessing a royalty permit for mineral transportation, when the latter's mini truck stopped by the roadside.

Code (IPC) and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with Chhuriya police station on the complaint of the driver, Beersingh

Uikey, he said.

As per the FIR, Chandu Sahu threatened Uikey of being involved in sand mining, despite the driver possessing a royalty permit for mineral transportation, when the latter's mini truck stopped by the roadside.

Chandu Sahu had said that the case was registered against him by the driver at the behest of the sand mafia.

Before her husband turned himself in before police, the MLA told reporters that he was being implicated in a false case as part of a political conspiracy hatched by mining mafias and anti-social elements. Meanwhile, the MLA also surrendered police personnel deputed for her security.

"If there is no respect for a public representative then why this drama of providing security?" she questioned.

MATTER OF CONCERN

Lata Mangeshkar's health deteriorates, under aggressive therapy'



Mumbai, Feb 05 (PTI):

Singing legend Lata Mangeshkar is back on the ventilator after her health deteriorated and is undergoing "aggressive therapy", a doctor treating her said on Saturday.

The 92-year-old singer tested positive for Covid with mild symptoms and

was admitted on January 8 to Breach Candy Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) where she is being treated by Dr Pratit Samdani and his team of doctors. "Lata Mangeshkar didi is in Breach Candy Hospital, in the ICU.

She continues to be under aggressive therapy and is tolerating the procedures well at this moment," Samdani told reporters outside the south Mumbai hospital. Earlier in the day, he said Mangeshkar's health had worsened. "She is not doing well. She continues to be in the ICU under treatment and has been put on ventilator again," Samdani told PTI.

PLAYING WITH COLOURS



Devotees play with colours as the 40-day long Holi festival starts at the Sri Bankey Bihari temple, on the occasion of Vasant Panchami, at Vrindavan in Mathura, Saturday.

'China continues to occupy 38,000 sq km of Indian territory'

New Delhi, Feb 05:

China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Union Territory of Ladakh for the last six decades, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan informed Lok Sabha on Friday.

Further, under the so-called China-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' signed in 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq km of Indian territory in Shaksgam Valley from areas illegally occupied by Pakistan in Union Territory of Ladakh to



V Muraleedharan

China, the minister said in a written reply to a question. Replying to a question of Bahujan Samaj Party MP Shyam Yadav Singh Muraleedharan said,

'Government of India has never recognised the so-called China-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963 and has consistently maintained that it is illegal and invalid.'

The fact that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times," the MoS said.

After the 1962 conflict, both China and Pakistan saw an opportunity to strengthen and develop their relations to put strategic pressure on India.

PM inaugurates 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad

Hails 11th century saint's message of equality of all

Hyderabad, Feb 05:

PM Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the 216-feet tall "Statue of Equality" commemorating the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya in Hyderabad. Saint Sri Ramanujacharya is known for promoting the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed.

"Statue of Equality will encourage youth. This statue of Ramanujacharya ji is a symbol of his knowledge,



detachment, and ideals," PM Modi said. The Statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc and is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting position, in the world. It is

mounted on a 54-feet high base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi', has floors devoted for a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing many works of Sri

Ramanujacharya. The statue has been conceptualised by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram. During the programme, 3D Presentation Mapping on the life journey and teaching of Sri Ramanujacharya will also be showcased.

Prime Minister will also visit the identical recreations of 108 Divya Desams (ornately carved temples) that surround the Statue of Equality. Sri Ramanujacharya worked tirelessly for the upliftment of people with the spirit of every human being equal regardless of nationality, gender, race, caste or creed.

AWGP celebrates Basant Panchami with devotion

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: The festival of Basant Panchami was celebrated with religious fervour and devotion at all the units of All World Gayatri Pariwar on Saturday. Maa Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, language, music and all arts, was worshipped on the day. The day has special importance for the members of AWGP as it is the spiritual birthday of AWGP founder Param Pujya Gurudev Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya. Celebrations were held at Gayatri Shaktipeeth Sector -6 Bhilai, Gayatri Pragyapeeth Bhagwati Sansthan Ramnagar Muktidham, Shiv Gayatri Temple Risali Sector, Gayatri Sadhana Kendra Risali Basti, Gayatri Shaktipeeth Ramnagar,



Camp-2 Power House Bhilai, Gayatri Pragyapeeth Khursipar, Pragyapeeth Kohka, Kurud, Housing Board, Gayatri Mandir Umda Road Bhilai -3, Pragyamandal Sector-4, Gayatri mandir Hudco and other units.

A day before Basant Panchami, 12 to 24 hours of Akhand Jap was conducted at all the temples. On Saturday, hundreds of devotees participated in the religious rituals and

offered aahuti in yajna. The devotees prayed for wisdom, a happy life and a bright future for all. They also prayed for the good health, happiness, peace, prosperity and longevity of all the brave soldiers positioned in the borders of the nation. Gayatri Parivar activist Mohan Umre informed that Basant means innovation and transmission of enthusiasm in the life of every living being. In the spring season, nature re-

joices with its full adornment. The spring season infuses creative enthusiasm in the human mind and conscience. When there is enthusiasm in life, a child like Narendra becomes Swami Vivekananda and Panch Pyare get ready to make supreme sacrifice for the society and culture. Basant stirs the conscience with the inspiration of rising above the odds. It was the holy day of Basant Panchami in the year 1926, when Dadaguru Swami Sarveshwaranand Maharaj gave darshan to Acharya ji at a tender age of 15 years. Swami Sarveshwaranand ji made him realize the greatness and life goal and inspired him to rise above ordinary life and step towards excellence. The 15 year old boy, following the orders of his guide, dedicated his

entire life for the upliftment of humanity. Acharya made the people rise above caste, religion, and sect and gave them the diksha of Gayatri mantra. On the day of Basant Panchami, it is considered auspicious to conduct Vidyarambh sanskar and mundan sanskar. All the rites were performed free of cost at Gayatri mandirs. Sub-Zone coordinator SP Singh, Vasudev Sharma, Mohan Umre, Ramswaroop Sahu, Ramadhar Mahilang, Ramswaroop Sahu, Prithvipal Sahu, Girdhari Lal Sahu, Mahendra Verma, Tikam Chandrakar, Dileshwar Sahu, Laxman Devangan, VP, Singh, Ajit Yamani Sonboir, Bhavmochan Verma and other members of Gayatri Pariwar were present.

Over 200 youth join ISU



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: On Saturday, over 200 youth formally took membership of Independent Students Union (ISU) Chhattisgarh. Vinod Singh and Bunty Pandey graced the event as chief guests and motivated the students. ISU State Secretary Mahendra Pratap, District General Secretary Chandan Kushwaha and Aditya Jain also encouraged the members. Subhash pan-

dit has been appointed as District Convener of ISU School Wing; Vijay Patra has been appointed as President of Vaishalinagar; Sagar Singh as Convener Vaishali Nagar; Sahil Sheikh as Durg President; Sanskar Agrawal as Convener of Durg city organisation. Responsibilities were given to the students of many other schools and colleges. ISU's state coordinator Rohit Tiwari said that this membership

drive of ISU will continue in future as well as ISU will soon form a youth union to connect the youth along with the student wing. In the interests of the society, a large youth organization will be formed. Chief Guest Vinod Singh urged the youth to work in the interest of the society and fight against the anarchy spread in Bhilai. The new members pledged to work in the interest of students and society.

Contract worker dies in suspicious condition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: A contract worker was found dead in suspicious condition at Bhilai Steel Plant on Saturday. His body was found lying near a lift at Sinter Plant#3. Police are trying to ascertain whether it was a suicide or mishap. The deceased was identified as Roshan Kumar (30) son of Ram Kishan a resident of village Khopli, Durg.



Prima facie it appears that Roshan had gone to the toilet at the Control Room and thereafter the incident occurred. He would have jumped from the window to commit suicide or might have accidentally fallen down.

General Secretary Vinod Kumar Soni has demanded from the BSP management to provide proper compensa-

tion to the bereaved family as well as provide compassionate appointment to one of the dependents of the deceased. He alleged that the efforts were being made to declare it a suicide. He demanded from the BSP management and Police Department to conduct a free and fair probe. He added that it is not fair to avoid the responsibility by declaring the death to be a suicide. There is no limit to the exploitation and repression of contract workers. The Covid pandemic and the policies of the union government had dragged the contract workers to a suffering end. In such a situation, the bereaved family must get proper compensation including compassionate appointment.

Universal Rail Mill records New High in Production of R260 Grade Rails

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill (URM) that rolls out the world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre long welded rail panels to Indian Railways achieved ever best day records in production of R260 grade of rails in 60E1 profile on February 04, 2022. URM rolled out the highest number of 361 blooms into R260 rails with 60E1 profile on February 04, 2022, surpassing previous best of 359 blooms rolled on August 02, 2021. The Mill also recorded best prime rails acceptance of 95.55% as against previous best of 95.4% on July 23, 2021. The excellent performance by team URM was made possible with the support of the Plant's Steel Melting Shop 3 that supplies blooms to URM, Research & Control Lab (RCL), the Transport & Diesel Dept, M/S RITES and all other associated departments.

Posing as journalist, bike lifter threatens Police Officer

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: Police have arrested two ruffians on charges of bike lifting. Earlier, one of the accused had contacted the SHO of Khursipar Police Station on mobile phone and had introduced himself as a journalist. During the conversation, he had tried to threaten the Police Officer.

CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that Khursipar Police Station received a complaint regarding theft of a Royal Enfield Bullet. The victim Sheikh Ismail had parked his bike bearing registration number CG07-CC-2136 outside his biryani shop on the intervening night of Friday. Next morning, he found that the bike was missing.

Police lodged a complaint and launched an investigation. They collected CCTV footages of nearby



places. Two ruffians were seen stealing the bike in the footage. On the basis of their appearance, police started searching for the suspects. On the other hand, Khursipar SHO Durgesh Sharma had received a mobile call from a person on the night of the incident. He had introduced himself as a journalist and had enquired about a bike which was seized by cops in connec-

tion with a battery theft incident. He had even tried to threaten the Police Officer over the same case. Police had gathered information about this person and acquired the ID and Address proof from the mobile phone company. Police team found that there was similarity in the photograph of ID proof with suspects spotted in the CCTV footage. Police team swung into action

and the suspects were taken into custody. During interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime. Police have recovered the stolen bike worth Rs 2.55 lakh from their possession. The accused identified as Yash Raj Hans alias Lucky (20) son of Solvender Singh Hans a resident of Akhlordeeh, Sarsapura and Abhishek Singh (25) son of Amar Bahadur Singh a resident of District Konda (Bihar) have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 379, 34 of IPC. Inspector Durgesh Sharma, Head Constable Motilal Mahilwar, Constables Rakesh Anna, Hemant Sahu, Deepak Singh, Rakesh Chaudhary, D Prakash, Chandan Singh, Subhash Yadav and Subhash Chand played vital role in arresting the accused.

SSV celebrates Basant Panchami

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: The festival of Basant Panchami signifies the arrival of the spring season. On this day devotees worship the deity of wisdom and learning, Goddess Saraswati. This auspicious day was celebrated in Sri Sankara Vidyalaya with great reverence.

Seeking her blessings, Bipin Deshmukh, Principal, SSV, lighted the lamp and garlanded the portrait of Goddess Saraswati. Vice Principal, Harish Chandra Chattwani, Head mistresses, Shobha Nair, S Usha along with teaching and administrative staff offered their prayers to the



Goddess of knowledge. Devotional songs were sung by teachers - Vandana Mishra, Aparna Manish, Sampada Risbud, Geeta



Batli, Sucheta Mudliar, Garvita Dutta, Dhanshree Deshpande, Sarojini Thakur and Devyani Vyas. They were ably accompa-

nied by Sanjeevani on the tabla. Bhagyavati and Geeta Batli shared their views on Basant Panchami. School Management greet-

ed the staff and students on this auspicious occasion. The programme came to an end with the distribution of sweets.

Two including a juvenile held for battery thefts

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: Police have arrested two ruffians including a juvenile on charges of stealing vehicle batteries. Police have also seized the bike which was used in the crime. CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that on February 03, Khursipar Police had received a complaint from one Suraj Mourya regarding theft of a battery from his auto-rickshaw which was parked near his house in Khursipar. On the same day, one Ashik Ali also complained that the battery was stolen from his auto-rickshaw near Baba Balaknath Mandir in Khursipar. Police gathered in-



formation about the suspects and launched an investigation. During night patrolling, police had spotted two suspects who had left the bike and escaped. The suspects were searched and taken into custody. During interrogation, they confessed to having stolen batteries from auto-rickshaws. The accused are identified as Prabhjeet (19)

son of Ratan Singh a resident of Umda Housing Board Colony, Bhilai-3 and a juvenile. Police have recovered two nos stolen batteries and have also seized the bike used in the crime. Sub Inspector Satish Sahu, Head Constable Narendra Singh, Constable Rakesh Anna, Hemant Sahu, Deepak Singh, Rakesh Chaudhary, D Prakash, Chandan Singh, Subhash Yadav and Subhash Chand played vital role in arresting the accused.

Jawaharlal Nehru award ceremony of SAIL-BSP conducted virtually

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 05: The prestigious prize distribution ceremony of the Jawahar, Nehru and Jawahar Nehru group awards at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant was held virtually on Saturday, February 05, 2022. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Manash Biswas, ED (Mines & Rowghat), Dr SK Issar, ED (M & HS), KK Singh, ED (P & A), AK Bhatta, ED (Projects) and Acting ED (MM), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), Dr AK Panda, CGM I/c (F & A), were the Special Guests on the occasion. A total of 546 awards, including 34 Jawahar awards, 61 Nehru awards and 451 Jawahar Nehru group awards were felicitated in the virtual ceremony. Anirban Dasgupta, Director

I/c (BSP) heartily congratulated the awardees. He extended his gratitude to the awardees for their exemplary contribution to the Company. Dasgupta elucidated the importance of the contribution of different departments of SAIL-BSP in the difficult circumstances of the COVID pandemic. He appreciated the efforts of the Medical and Health Services team, Oxygen Plant collective, Praxair team, Materials Management, CISF who went out of their way to supply Oxygen, including 35,000 Metric Tonne Liquid Medical Oxygen, and filled Hydrocarbon tankers with Oxygen. Traffic department coordinated the movement of cylinders. Also, the JUMBO Covid Care centre was setup with the combined effort of departments like Oxygen Plant,

Civil and Medical and Health services team. The Traffic and Diesel department and Ore Handling Plant reduced Wagon detention time and ensured zero demurrage charges. Electro-Static precipitator was successfully installed at SP 2 in record time. Various central agencies have worked diligently with the Projects department to achieve milestones. Blast Furnace 8 has touched record production, being one of the first its capacity to achieve so, he said. Steel Melting Shop 3 has surpassed its rated capacity. It is a matter of pride that Billet casting has been done for the first time using Flying tundish technique. He appreciated the efforts and team work of Coke Ovens and Coal chemical department and SMS 2 collective. Also, he



highlighted the record in producing R260 grade rail by the Universal Rail Mill and Asymmetric rails Rail Mill collective catering to the demand of the Railways. Dasgupta lauded the efforts of the RCL team. I'm confident that the Bar and Rod Mill team will soon go beyond its rated capacity. He appreciated the work done by Wire Rod mill and Merchant

Mill. RMP 3 has made improvement in reactivity of calcine lime, he said. Iron ore availability is a challenge in Mines. The rate of Coking and Thermal Coal has also increased manifold. We must focus on reducing costs, wastages and improving maintenance, thereby reducing breakdowns and increase availability of spares. We must

focus on Safety and work on beneficence in the Mines, he said. At the outset, KK Singh, ED (P & A) in his welcome address stated that the contribution of the awardees to the organisation is unique and the Jawaharlal Nehru award is an expression of gratitude towards them. He urged them to focus on their health. You must dedicate this award to your colleagues and serve as a role model for them, he said. Manash Biswas, ED (Mines & Rowghat) said that we must all focus on a safe work environment for all. The Mines hospitals have risen up to the demands of the COVID pandemic. He congratulated the Kuteshwar Mines team for being recognised for their contribution in this ceremony. We must set an example for others by inspiring others and keep

employee morale high always, he said. Dr SK Issar, ED (M & HS) stated that the Jawahar Nehru awards is a prestigious award in one's work life. AK Bhatta, ED (Projects) and Acting ED (MM) said that the hard work by the employees has been rewarded. In the coming year, we must focus on producing 1175 HT rails. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) appreciated the value addition to the company by the awardees. We must focus on Safety and motivate others too. Dr AK Panda, CGM I/c (F & A) stated that the award is a matter of pride in one's career. The company is moving forward due to the contribution of its employees. A film titled 'Vijeta' by Public Relations department showcasing the contribution of BSP employees in the trying COVID

times, production highlights, announcement of National Water awards and URM serving as a Zero liquid discharge unit was shown online. Dasgupta stated that though the Nehru award function was conducted virtually, the felicitation and honour showered on the employees is actual. I extend my best wishes to the awardees and wish that they stay healthy and prosperous, he added. Nisha Soni, CGM (Personnel) proposed the Vote of Thanks, while R Ranjani, DGM (Pers-Medical) compered the programme. The Citations of the awardees were read by V Kumar, SM (Pers-Rectt), Nisha Baul, Manager (Pers.-HRIS) and Rahul Thote, Manager (Pers.-IR). Awardees and members of the Steel fraternity and their families joined the virtual programme.

Scindia slams Rahul over 'two Indias' remark

Says State gov't not cooperating for expansion of aviation facilities

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Slamming Rahul Gandhi for his "two Indias" remark, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday said the Congress leader might be referring to the pre-2014 situation in the country marked by the "lack of development, corruption and economic mismanagement".

He also accused the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in Chhattisgarh of not cooperating with the aviation ministry in its efforts to expand aviation facilities in the state.

Talking to reporters at the Swami Vivekanand Airport in Raipur after arriving here on a day-long visit, the Union minister said that a new India is being created under the PM's leadership where corruption is checked and the doors of growth and development have been opened.

When asked about



Rahul Gandhi's "two Indias" statement, Scindia said, I am surprised that such a statement can be given by any citizen of India. My India is one and united. My country is a family. There has always been a brotherhood culture in my country.

Perhaps Rahul Gandhi was referring to the situation before 2014 when no progress and development but only corruption and economic mismanagement existed. But after Modi ji came to power, another country has emerged where corruption has been curbed and the doors of progress and development have been opened. Now India has been emerging on the world stage. It is now a country where the poor not only have their rights but new dimensions of development and progress are in their hands, he

added. Rahul Gandhi in his recent speech in Lok Sabha and at a function in Raipur had accused the BJP-led Centre of dividing the nation into two India one belonging to select billionaires and the other to the crores of common people.

Scindia later addressed a press conference at Kushabhau Thakre Parisar- the state BJP office- here, where he accused the Bhupesh Baghel government of not cooperating with the aviation ministry in its efforts to expand aviation facilities in the state.

He also alleged corruption in the public distribution system in the Congress-ruled state.

Queried about the work being done for the expansion of airports and facilities in Chhattisgarh, the union minister said that

the Raipur airport has a cargo facility in an area of 460 square meters and his ministry has planned to increase it by 10 times to 4,500 square meters.

The daily cargo business from the facility in the Raipur airport is to the tune of 15 metric tonne, and after increasing the area of the cargo facility, our plan is to increase the business to 50 metric tonne per day, he added.

Our effort is to increase the aviation facilities in Chhattisgarh because in the coming days, the civil aviation sector will be the backbone of transportation in the entire country. But the kind of support and work the state government has to extend, we are facing disappointment on that front, Scindia said.

He said the Chhattisgarh government is yet to hand over 24 acres

of land to the Raipur airport to increase the length of the runway.

"We have increased the length of the runway from 2,300 meters to 3,105 meters but the infrastructure that needs to be built around it could not come up due to non-allocation of the land. The situation is the same in the Bilaspur airport (also in Chhattisgarh). The state government has cancelled the transfer of land to the Airport Authority of India. How can we ensure progress until the land is not transferred to the AAI, he asked.

Scindia also accused the Baghel government of creating similar hurdles.

"I have tried to speak to the CM (Baghel) several times but I think he doesn't have any interest in civil aviation, he alleged.

Describing the Narendra Modi government as "progressive, proactive and pro-people", the union minister also highlighted provisions made for housing, portable water, farmers and other welfare schemes in the Union budget 2022-23.

He also explained how Chhattisgarh will benefit from the provisions made in the budget.

Munat detained after scuffle with senior Cop

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson and former Minister Rajesh Munat was on Saturday detained by police following political tussle involving BJP workers and Congress workers during the visit of Union Minister Scindia here.

According to the information received, the BJP leader Rajesh Munat in his video message alleged that the BJP workers are being beaten by police follow-



ing scuffle with the Congress workers who had been waiting to show black flag to visiting Minister Scindia.

When news of Munat being beaten by police went into air, a large number of BJP workers including

Brijmohan Agrawal reached the Police station to register protest. It has been reported that Munat had verbal exchange with a senior Police Officer which resulted in his arrest amidst heavy political drama.

100% attendance of staff mandatory in Colleges

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Department of Higher Education of Chhattisgarh Government has made it clear that the attendance of 100% staff in Colleges and Universities is mandatory amid control in Covid 19 pandemic. Further, the District below 4% positivity rate, can allow the Colleges and Universities to conduct Physical class-

es in those district.

Order issued stated that the above provisions have been followed in Government, Private Universities, Government and Private Colleges under which the authorities have been asked to ensure physical attendance of the students during the regular classes. At the same time, the Districts with above 4% positivity

rate, can continue to have online and offline classes as required. Similarly, the Schools and Aanganbadi Centres can also resume Physical classes in the district with 4% positivity rate.

However, the state government made it clear that all essential instructions related with Covid Protocol has to be followed.

e-rickshaw showroom burgled in Kushalpur

Decamped with cash 40,000 and a laptop computer

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Unidentified burglar broke into an e-rickshaw showroom situated in Kushalpur and decamped with cash 40,000 and a laptop computer. The burglary was later complained in DD Nagar police station.

According to police, complainant Tushar

Chandrakar is owner M/s. Om Sai Corporation e-rickshaw showroom situated at Kushalpur Chow. On the intervening night of Friday-Saturday, unidentified burglar broke into his showroom by breaking the showroom's shutter and decamped with a laptop computer in a bag that also contained cash Rs 40,000, all totaling to Rs 65,000. Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 457, 380 IP against unidentified burglar and further investigation is now underway.

Two bikes lifted

Raipur: Unidentified lifters escaped with two bikes from separate police station areas during lat 24-hours. The first one, Hero Glamour CG04-DS-3090 from Science College ground where it was parked by owner Ravi Kumar Sharma. The lifting was later complained in Saraswati Nagar police station. The next one, a Hero Passion pro CG04-FJ- 2932, was lifted from outside Jagannath Trading Company in Bhanpuri where it was parked by owner Parmanand Sahu. The lifting was later complained in Khamtarai police station. Both the liftings have been registered under Section 379 IPC by respective police and further investigations are now underway.

RSU employees protest demotion orders, continue agitation

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Members of Anusuchit Jaati & Janjaati Karmachari Parishad, Pt Ravishankar Shukla University continued with their demonstration to press for withdrawal of demotion order on Thursday.

The organization members also demanded to provide copies of approval government and decision passed by Public Commission in different cases' investigation, Departmental Promotion Committee's recommendation, University's competent approval order mentioned in demotion and promotion orders. It's noteworthy that the organization on February 1, 2022, staged a protest at Vice-Chancellor's office regarding employees affected



from demotion. Miffed by which, the University had suspended the activities of the organization on the allegations of violation of rules. It's important to mention here that recognition to any organization/institution is given by

Registrar of Firms & Society Chhattisgarh Raipur and they also conduct the election of organization's office-bearers and grant recognition to elected/nominated functionaries. But, Pt RSU has authorized Deputy Registra

to conducting election of the Parishad in the letter related to suspending recognition to the Parishad. The organization office-bearers have announced to continue the protest on January 5, Saturday, as well.

Public grievances be resolved within stipulated time limit: Baghel

Central Chronicle News

CM's instructions to Chief Secretary Asks to start facility of online monitoring of the status of redressal of public grievances from March 01, 2022

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel gave directions to Chief Secretary to make arrangements for online monitoring of applications of public grievances to ensure timely redressal of problems related to departments including revenue, police, electricity, health and urban bodies.

The Chief Minister said that efforts should be made to start the facility of online monitoring of the status of redressal of public grievances from March 1, 2022. He has said that online monitoring of the status of redressal of public grievances should be ensured at the level of Chief Minister's Secretariat and Chief Secretary. Along with this, there should be a facility for the general public to register their problems and get information about the action taken just by sitting at home from any part of the state.

With the introduction of this system, citizens will no longer have to make rounds of offices and their problems will be solved sitting at home.

COVID-19: Chhattisgarh logs 2,113 cases, achieves 100% vaccination with 1st dose for 18-plus

Raipur, Feb 05: Chhattisgarh on Friday reported 2,113 new COVID-19 cases, down from 2,454 a day ago, taking the tally to 11,36,435, while 19 fresh deaths pushed up the toll to 13,914, an official said.

All eligible people above 18 years have been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Chhattisgarh, health department data showed.

The daily positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, was 5.32 per cent, down from 5.87 per cent on Thursday, he said.

The number of recoveries reached 11,03,835 after 127 people were discharged from hospitals and 3,362 completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with an

active tally of 18,686, the official said.

"Raipur recorded 342 cases, followed by Durg 198, Dhamtari 162, Rajnandgaon 146, Jashpur 115, Bilaspur 98, Kanker 95 and Raigarh 72, among other districts," he said.

With 39,735 swab samples examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,64,32,643, the official said.

Meanwhile, cent per cent of the population above 18 has been administered the first dose of coronavirus vaccine as on February 3 with their numbering standing at 1,95,63,452, according to a health department release.

Similarly, 74 per cent of

the eligible people above 18 years of age (total 1,46,01,944) have been given both doses of the vaccine.

Also, 62 per cent of teens in the 15-18 age segment (10,14,765) have been administered the first dose, the release said.

In all, 3,56,01,825 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered so far in the state, including precaution doses to 2,72,465 health workers, frontline staff and people above 60, the release added.

Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,36,435, new cases 2,113, death toll 13,914, recovered 11,03,835, active cases 18,686, total tests 1,64,32,643.

Blanket distribution to needy



Raipur, Feb 05: As part of CSR Initiative, on Saturday ESAB BANK Raipur Branch conducted Blanket Distribution program among the needy beneficiaries. Chief Guest of the program was Mr. Rupesh Sahu (Retd. Navy Officer). Also cluster

Head Retail (Vikash), Branch Head (Pritam), DM (Sijomohun), Branch Manager (Rajesh Barik), Audit officer (Jay Kishan) Admin Officer (Sidharth) and Development officer, Mitu Henry were present.

Government departments to be able to directly buy Deobhog milk and other products

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Keeping in mind the interests of the cattle owners of the state associated with milk cooperatives, the Chief Secretary has instructed all departments, undertakings, corporations and boards of the government to use milk and milk products of Deobhog brand at the time of government events as per the wish of the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The de-

partment can directly buy the product of Deobhog brand.

Instructions have been issued by the state government from time to time to purchase the milk and milk products of Deobhog brand produced by Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Milk Federation for use in government activities. According to the Rule 8.4 of the Chhattisgarh Stores Purchase Rules, 2002 (as amended in 2020) - If the departmental construction units run by any department of the state government manufacture the

material, then the material can be purchased from such manufacturing unit, for which it is not necessary to call a separate tender. Instructions have been given by the Chief Minister in the past to purchase the products of Deobhog brand of Chhattisgarh Milk Federation as per the requirement in all the departments. The Chief Secretary has asked the heads of all government departments, undertakings, corporations and boards to ensure that the above instructions are strictly followed.

Basant Panchami in SDV

Raipur, Feb 05: Sant Dnyaneshwar Hr. Sec. School (SDV), a project of Maharashtra Mandal, celebrated Basant Panchami in its rich traditional way. Pujan and Hawan was performed, prayers were made to heal the minds and hearts of countrymen which were in problems due to pandemic. School incharge Niranjan Pandit, Principal Dr. (Mrs) Manjiri Bakshi, Vice



Principal Rahul Voditelwar and the faculties together chanted the Saraswati Mantra, Aarti and Prayer for the blessings of "Maa Saraswati" & atmosphere emerged with spiritual & blissfulness.

According to the tradition, 'saraswati vandana' & Bhajan were sung. The programme ended with Prasad Vitaran in a graceful atmosphere with joyful way.

CPSKS welcomes five day week for Govt staff

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Chhattisgarh Pradesh Swasth Karmachari Sangh (CPSKS) state president O P Sharma and Shaskiya Chikitsak Sangh (CKS) state president Gokul Sarkarin in a joint statement has

welcomed five-day week working for the state government staff as announced by the state government. They demanded that all the doctors and medical staff engaged in 24X7 service may be given pay-scale at par with central government employees

and other allowances like casual medical services allowance, risk allowance, non-practicing allowance and government quarters.

In addition medical staff may be given special allowance for the services during corona period.

Chhattisgarh to become a model across the country in agriculture: Choubey

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: A lively exhibition based on the Suraji scheme of Chhattisgarh government including the innovations of agriculture and organic products has been put up in the Science College grounds. Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Ravindra Choubey inspected the development exhibition on Friday evening. Choubey while observing the organic food items produced by the officials of farmers' organizations and women's groups also discussed with them. He appreciated the hard work and dedication of the



farmers and women's groups. He said that with your hard work, Chhattisgarh is going to become a model state of the country in the field of agriculture. Development and treatment of drains in villages under Suraji Gaon Yojana, Gothan

Nirman, Godhan Nyay Yojana, vermi production, animal husbandry, increase in crop productivity through Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana and GI tagged products under crop diversification were displayed at the exhibition of Agriculture Department. On this occasion Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Chairman Gyanesh Sharma, Secretary to the Chief Minister and State Nodal Officer of Godhan Nyay Yojana, Dr. Bharathidasan, Director Agriculture, Yashwant Kumar, Horticulture Matheswaran V along with other officers were also there.

School Education Minister Tekam visits exhibition, took feedback

● Visited the stall of Swami Atmanand English Medium School

Raipur, Feb 05: School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam visited the stalls of Swami Atmanand English Medium School on the second day at the exhibition held at Science College Ground in Raipur. School Education Minister Dr. Tekam took feedback from the children and their parents of Swami Atmanand English Medium School present in the stall here regarding the education and facilities of the school.



Here the stall of Swami Atmanand English Medium School has been displayed in three parts. Smart class, modern laboratory and digital library

have been included in this, along with a model of the infrastructure of Swami Atmanand School. It is worth mentioning that the state government has started Swami Atmanand English Medium School to provide an environment to study in English medium and to provide opportunities for future to the children of economically weaker people. Till now a total of 171 government English medium schools are running in the state. Where along with state-of-the-art infrastructure, facilities like physical library, digital library and better environment for academic and sports activities are being provided.

Minister Bhedia, Dr. Dahria appreciate stall of Women and Child Development Department

Raipur, Feb 05: Women and Child Development Minister Mrs. Anila Bhedia visited the departmental stalls in the development exhibition organized at Science College Ground, Raipur. In the exhibition of the Department of Women and Child Development, they purchased eatables and goods worth about Rs 1000 from the women's group. Talking to the members of self help women group, they asked about the sale of the goods made by them. On this, all the women expressed happiness and satisfaction over the sale. Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Dahria also reached the stall of Women and Child Development with the



family and bought many items from the women of the group. Both the ministers also tasted and appreciated the Chhattisgarhi cuisine prepared by the women of the group. Mrs. Bhedia spoke to the Korea Women's Home Industry Self Help Group and praised 500 women for get-

Paddy procurement in the state has crossed 97.71 lakh metric tonnes

● 21.74 lakh farmers sold paddy: Rs 19,000.46 crore released to farmers in lieu of paddy purchase

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: As a result of visionary thinking and liberal decisions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, so far 97.71 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured in the state of Chhattisgarh in the current season of paddy procurement on support price. So far, 21.74 lakh farmers have easily sold paddy in the procurement centers in the state. Rs 19,000.46 crore has been released to farmers under bank linking system in lieu of paddy purchase. It is noteworthy that keeping



in view the demand and need of the farmers, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has decided to extend the date of purchase of paddy by one more week for the convenience of the farmers. Now paddy will be procured from farmers till February 7. The state government has set a target to procure 105 lakh metric

tonnes of paddy from more than 24 lakh farmers this year. Token arrangement has been ensured to sell paddy to all the remaining registered farmers in the current season. As per the intention of the Chief Minister, along with the purchase of paddy, the lifting of paddy for custom milling is also being done. So far a record 61.10 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has

been lifted through DO and TO. Mr. Verma informed that DO of 51.17 lakh thousand metric tonnes of paddy has been issued. 45.02 lakh metric paddy has been lifted by the millers from the procurement centers. Similarly, for transportation of 20.67 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, T.O. has been issued. Against which 16.08 lakh thousand metric tonnes of paddy has been lifted from the committees. It is noteworthy that in the state of Chhattisgarh, the procurement of paddy from farmers on support price has started from December 1, 2021. Along with the procurement of paddy, the lifting of paddy from the procurement centers and custom milling is also going on on a war footing. A record more than 24 lakh farmers have registered for selling paddy this year.

CM instructs to extend the development exhibition at Science College



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: In view of the tremendous response from people of the state towards the development exhibition held at Science

College, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel has decided to extend the duration of the exhibition till February 6. Earlier this exhibition based on the achievements of the state

Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries and Special Secretaries of the Government from Mantralaya regarding the extension of exhibition till February 6. It is noteworthy that this exhibition was organized from February 3 to 5, 2022 on the occasion of the launch of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhoomiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana. Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi was the Chief Guest of this event. Now the duration of this event has been extended for another day till February 6th. General Administration Department has directed the officials concerned to keep the exhibition fair program of the department unchanged till February 6.

Crowd gathered to see Chhattisgarh model in Public Relations Department's photo exhibition

● Huge enthusiasm among people at Selfie Point to make the experience memorable

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: On the occasion of the arrival of MP Shri Rahul Gandhi in Chhattisgarh, the development exhibition organized in the Science College ground of Raipur continued for the general public on February 4th and 5th. Crowd is gathering in large number to see the Chhattisgarh model in the photo exhibition put up by the Public Relations Department. School children, youth, elderly, women and common citi-



zens are getting information about the welfare schemes of the government. Common citizens are getting proud after seeing the development splen-

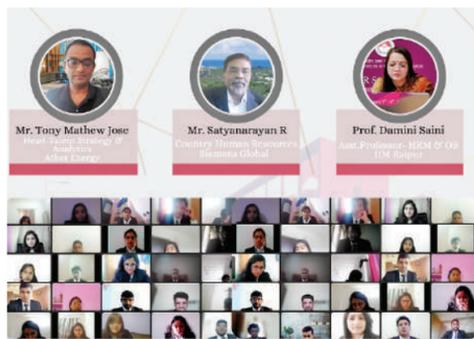
dor of Chhattisgarh. Here common people are enthusiastically taking selfies in Selfie Point to make their experience memorable. In the exhibition, magazines, brochures, pamphlets based on government schemes, programs published by the Public Relations Department are also being distributed.

IIM Raipur hosts the 5th HR Summit 2022

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 05: Indian Institute of Management Raipur, launched its 5th HR Summit on 5th February with the theme "HR Architecture in Digital Landscape". The summit aims to provide a unique platform to the HR experts and the students to interact and discuss key ideas which would help the upcoming HR professionals in tackling future challenges in a proficient manner. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Indrajeet Sengupta, CHRO at Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, Prof. Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIM Raipur, Prof. Satyasiba Das, Chairman, Corporate Relations, IIM Raipur. The event was coordinated by Prof. Anubha

Dadhich, Asst. Professor, HRM & Organizational Behaviour, IIM Raipur. The Summit was addressed by Dr. Satyasiba Das who introduced the guests to the proceedings of the event. He also touched upon the development of the event over the years while highlighting the importance of the connection between corporate and students to keep abreast of the recent HR trends. This was followed by an address by Prof. Bharat Bhasker. He talked about the changing structure of the organisation according to the changing situation. The welcome address was followed by a keynote address from the Chief Guest Indrajeet Sengupta. He shared that companies want to grow by sailing through fierce competition but many of



them fail. The inaugural ceremony ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Anubha Dadhich. The first panel discussion saw insights on the topic "Tech-fluent Workforce" which was moderated by Prof. Anubha Dadhich. She gave a brief introduction to this interesting topic and initiated the discus-

sion. Sangeetha Gera, Head - Learning & Talent Management, Societe Generale emphasized the importance of a tech fluent workforce in the financial and banking sector. Reorienting the entire workforce is crucial to cope with changes in the workforce from varied demographics. Dr. Anil Kumar

Misra, CHRO, Reliance Retail shared that organisations should be inclusive of multicultural environments. The existing workforce will be irrelevant by 2025 and organisations need to scale up the agile mindset. The second panel's Track 1 discussion was on the topic 'Mental Well-being and Thought Leadership'. Track 1 was moderated by Prof. Pankaj Singh, HRM & Organizational Behaviour, IIM Raipur. Mr. Sanjay Srivastava, Director - HR, Boehringer Ingelheim said that every organization has its own set of rituals that form the culture and identity of the organisation. Leaders and managers should be more inclusive with diverse views. He emphasized the art of being still

so that one should be able to enjoy one's own company. Lokesh Sikka, CHRO, Onida shared that the majority of the mental stress is directly through the immediate supervision one faces at the workplace. Decision-making becomes easier with the help of supportive managers and leaders. One should always engage in conversations with their colleagues to build a better understanding. Track 2 witnessed discussion on 'Competencies and Skill Intelligence', Track 2 was moderated by Prof. Sanjeev Prashar, Professor- Marketing, IIM Raipur. Sunil Ranjan, Senior Vice President & Director HR, LG Electronics said that agility, flexibility, capabil-

ity to live with the contradictions as a manager is a key to adapting to the changes. Sutanu Chowdhury CHRO, Spencer's Retail said that there is always a disruption in training the workforce to get into the system and VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) has always been there. Sudhir Dhar, Executive Director - Group CHRO, Motilal Oswal Financial Services mentioned that leaders need to have a futuristic mindset and should be a catalyst for change. Leaders have to do what is right and not what should be right to have a competency map for the organisation. The third panel's Track 1 discussion was on the topic 'Total Reward Strategy'. Track 3 was moderated by

Prof. Kamal K Jain, Professor, HRM & Organizational Behaviour, IIM Raipur. He gave a brief introduction to this interesting topic and initiated the discussion. Siddharth Silawat, Head - Rewards, Policy, ER & Compliance, VOIS said that Industry 4.0 has a huge impact nowadays and presented quite a few challenges. Organisations are focusing on cyber skills. Debashish Majumdar, Head HR Business Partnering & Rewards, Godrej Housing Finance explained how the digital journey has seen an acceleration since the start of Covid. Organizations need to be extremely agile these days since the business cycle is turning every 2 years. It is important to have a combination of standardization and personalization.

Over 1000 disability certificates forged

Chandra Sekhar Sharma

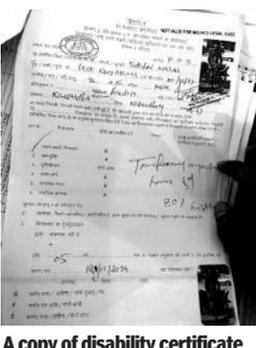
Kawardha, Feb 05: Corruption against issuing of more than 1000 disability certificates by an unauthorized doctor have come to light here in the district hospital. The reason behind is cited as irregularity in the information of the Physical Efficiency and Disability Certificate Committee is raising question marks.

According to information written by Dr Aditya Chandel of the health department after he was reprimanded for issuing the certificates, in taking the matter into controversy.

In the message circulated through social media he has concluded that there is no medical board formed to claim the disability percentage of the patients and he was involved in making over 1000 disability certificates

under Samaj Kalyan Vibhag and has also opted to constitute medical board with at least 2 orthopedic specialists to open the case.

The Disabled and Physical Efficiency Certificate Committee constituted on January 1, 2022, saw many errors after which under the revised order issued on 22 January 2022, MD Medicine Specialist Dr. Walter was suddenly dropped from the Physical Fitness Committee, which was against rules as it is mandatory to keep a specialist of Medicine in the disability Committee, as persons affected by blood related disorders and chronic nervous conditions are screened by specialist in the core Committee. The removal of a specialist by bypassing the qualifications a question mark arises on the legitimacy of the committee.

**Reconstituted Medical Board formed on Jan 22****Medical Board formed on January 01.****A copy of disability certificate which was prepared before the constitution of medical board.**

What official says

"Disability certificate cannot be made without becoming a member of the Medical Board or without being authorized. It is mandatory to have a medicine specialist in the Physical Efficiency Certificate Committee. Information regarding issuing of fake disability certificate has been received and guidelines are being sought by bringing the matter to the notice of the higher authorities for action."

- Dr. S. K. Mandal CMHO Kabirdham

Face of administrative system changing fast

Central Chronicle News

Mainpur, Feb 04: The picture of the administrative system of Gariaband district has started changing, as public welfare schemes and administration are reaching the public directly, and the work of review at the ground level is also taking shape.

Under Namrata Gandhi, the newly posted woman IAS in the district, and superintendent of police public hearings have started, where, on the one hand, the departmental staff has become fine after the district administration has issued orders for smooth operation of the schemes.

On the other hand, now the law system is strong in the district, successful efforts are on to rein in every illegal work and sim-



plying the administrative system, the doors of administration have been opened to the public with transparency. Along with this, the district administration has now appointed Collector and Superintendent of Police, District Panchayat CEO to test the ground reality.

The Collector and Superintendent of Police, District Panchayat CEO reached Devbhog and surprised the people by putting up a Jan Choupal, sitting on the ground. After Nistaguda, the next choupal was set up in the well-known kidney suffering village Supebeda.

Road incomplete even after an year of CM's announcement

**Central Chronicle News**

Konta/Sukma, Feb 05: It has been almost seven decades since the country became independent, but only 2 km from Sukma district headquarters. The village panchayat is far away from Goganla, where even today Goganla residents and school children are longing for a pucca road.

Even today, there is an axis of the paved road. The great thing is that in the year 2000, during the Atal government, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched for the construction of roads in rural areas. But many works have been done under this scheme in the district for 22 years, it is surprising that even a pucca road could not reach near the district.

On 02 February 2021, the

Chief Minister wanted to meet the Chief Minister to apprise him of the basic problem of Divyang Tularam Nag and Goganla. In Gogla, along with school children, the villagers also have to face a lot of trouble in commuting. Nothing could be done about the situation. Start the work immediately without delay, otherwise Gogla road will be closed.

Disposal of bio medical waste should be as per the prescribed provisions: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Feb 05: Under the chairmanship of District Collector Kuldeep Sharma, a meeting of the District Task Force Committee was held here in the Manthan meeting room. National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi has directed the formation of District Task Force and coordination regarding the disposal of solid waste and public awareness program and in compliance of which the meeting of the District Task Force Committee was held today under the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.

While directing all the urban bodies regarding the banned plastic carry bags included in the agenda of the meeting, the



Collector said that all the urban body officers should ban plastic carry bags under their area and ensure effective action on the use of bags. He said that as an alternative, people should be encouraged to use bags made of cloth. Giving information on the action plan in rural areas, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Kunal Dudawat said that

during the Gram Sabha, it is being encouraged to make plastic-free Gram Panchayat. Along with this, he informed that 2 plastic waste management units are approved in the district, whose DPRs are under process. Collector Sharma said that there is a need to pay special attention to the village panchayats related to tourist

places, so that the natural beauty along with cleanliness remains at the tourist places. In the meeting, the Collector also has given strict instructions to all the government and private medical centers to dispose of bio medical waste as per the prescribed provisions. In the meeting, the Chief Medical and Health

Officer informed that at present medical waste is being disposed of in the district hospital through soak pits and deep pits. The Collector also took information from CMO Baikunthpur about the beautification of Ghari Chowk and Jail Pond. He directed to ensure the convenience of the people and better environment under the beautification of the ponds. He said that squares and squares are the heart of the city and all the urban body officers should ensure cleanliness and necessary beautification within their area. Chief Medical and Health Officer, Public Health Engineering, Water Resources Department and officers of all urban bodies were present in the meeting.

Budget discussion organized in CU

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 05: An enlightening discussion session 'Post Budget Discussion, 2022' was organized in the Department of Economics of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University). More than a hundred participants participated in this program organized under the guidance of University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal.

At beginning of the program the, the Chief Patron, the Vice-Chancellor, Alok Kumar Chakrawal, while welcoming all the guests, briefly highlighted the main points of the budget. In the program, the speaker, Prof. Mohd. Muzammil presented his views. Prof. Mohd. Muzammil told in particular, the main points of the budget and said that this budget, while leading to sustainable development, will give impetus to the goal of quality education and startups.

Co-operatives and their work has also been promoted in this budget. Another important

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Feb 05: For the past many years, under the protection of the Forester and Range Officer, by the forest guard posted to protect the forests in the forest, economic benefits were being earned by engaging in illegal felling of green trees of Vananchal area.

Many times the angry villagers tried to catch them by guerilla means, but due to departmental protection, every time the forest guard Vishram Ladekar was saved. The case is of room number 556 Pari Kshetra Bor Talav. During the construction of the pond in village Ghortlav, the residents of the affected area



were successful in disclosing illegal logging and construction against the rules by taking a pledge to protect the forests. In view of the seriousness of the case, the forest guard was suspended with immediate effect. Seeing that action was not taken against the forest guards and regional forest officers

instructions of MLA Daleswar Sahu, senior forest officials including Khairagarh SDO Mr. Sidar and Dongargarh SDO Mrs. Pushp Lata were immediately sent to the spot by DFO. Now under MNREGA, the pond will be constructed at another place and it was told by SDO Dongargarh Smt. Pushp Lata that a 40 x 40 pond would be built for the protection of forest animals, in which employment will be given to the villagers. Village's Anil Kavdkar, Ramesh Singh, Jitendra Kumar, Mahesh Kumar Lade, Radhe Shyam, Ghanshyam Panch Bhawe, Narendra Uke gave their contribution in solving the matter.

On being informed about the matter, on the

Farmer stages protest due to non-procurement of paddy

● Seek permission for self-immolation**Central Chronicle News**

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Feb 05: A farmer of the region has asked for permission for self-immolation due to non-procurement of paddy in the centers here. As per information paddy procurement is in the final stage and Narayan Kewat, a farmer of Changeri village of Marwahi tehsil, annoyed by the obstinate attitude of the administration, filed a sit-in protest and requested SDM to perform self-immolation, after which SDM Marwahi investigated and got the situation under control. Farmer Narayan Kewat told in his application that he does farming and has a family to look after and



every year he sells 60 quintals of paddy in cooperative society but this year records are showing he sold only 12 quintals of paddy. In demanding correction to Tehsildar Marwahi on 24th December, he did not get any concrete answer from the administration, then only in compulsion, he applied to Marwahi SDM for permission to self-immolate, he said. According to Hiteshwari Baghe, S D M Marwahi the farmer's application has been received, and it has been resolved.

Dr Gitesh Amrohit appointed as member

In the Standardisation Samiti of Chhattisgarhi language

Dongargaon, Feb 05: A talented youth of city Dr Gitesh Amrohit has been included in the standardisation samiti of Chhattisgarhi language. Dr Gitesh Kumar Amrohit apart from being a doctor, is also a linguist with expertise in Hindi and Chhattisgarhi. Many a books written by Dr Amrohit are part of the course in many universities of the state.

**Dr Gitesh Amrohit**

After formation of state, Chhattisgarhi dialect got the status of official language and in order to make it part of state's working and bringing it into practical usage, its standardisation was being felt for long.

So after long pause, finally the standardisation of Chhattisgarhi language is being done and it is the Chhattisgarhi Rajbhasha Aayog who is developing official terminology with in-

clusion of words used in administrative works and not that of general words. But this new Samiti will now work on standardisation of words in usage in Chhattisgarhi language in general as well. It is notable here that Chhattisgarhi is an official language declared in Chhattisgarh and earlier it was a dialect. Being a dialect, the use and pronunciation of words in Chhattisgarhi was done in separate manner and style in different parts of the state. But now since the standardisation of Chhattisgarhi language has been started and for which the Culture Department of

the state government has formed standardisation samiti for Chhattisgarhi language and its grammar. **Members of the Committee:** The 10 members of the Standardisation Samiti are - Dr Anil Bhatpahari Secretary Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog (CRA), Vice Chancellor Pt. RSU Dr Kesari Lal Verma, Padam Shri Dr Surendra Dubey, Linguist Dr Sudhir Sharma, Dr Chitranjan Kar, Dr Vinay Kumar Pathak and others and they will work on standardisation of Chhattisgarhi grammar and words and its meaning.

आम सूचना	AFFIDAVIT
<p>मैं आकाश चंद्राकर उम्र 30 वर्ष पिता होमराज चंद्राकर, निवासी-पोस्ट आफिस के सामने, तेलीबाधा, रायपुर तहसील व जिला-रायपुर छ.ग. जो कि निम्नलिखित कथन शपथपूर्वक करता हूँ:-</p> <p>1. यह कि, मेरा नाम व पता उपरोक्तानुसार है जो कि सत्य एवं सही है।</p> <p>2. यह कि, मेरे कक्षा 5वीं एवं 8वीं की अंकसूची में मेरा नाम आकाश चंद्राकर पिता होमराज चंद्राकर, माता श्यामा चंद्राकर अंकित है जो कि सत्य एवं सही है।</p> <p>3. यह कि, मेरे कक्षा 10वीं से लेकर समस्त शैक्षणिक दस्तावेजों एवं आधार कार्ड, पैन कार्ड, पासपोर्ट, बैंक खाता में मेरा नाम आकाश पिता होमराज, माता श्यामा अंकित है।</p> <p>4. यह कि, मैं अपने शासकीय, अर्धशासकीय दस्तावेजों में मेरा पूरा नाम आकाश चंद्राकर पिता होमराज चंद्राकर, माता श्यामा चंद्राकर अंकित कराना चाहता हूँ।</p> <p>5. यह कि, मैं यह शपथ पत्र उपर वर्णित कथनों के सम्बन्ध में संबन्धित सक्षम अधिकारी को समक्ष प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ।</p> <p>शपथकर्ता</p>	<p>I REEJBAL is wife of No 15589476N Rank Itrade - Nk/Aww Name MITHLESH KUMAR Presatly residing at charwahi post charwahi Tah/Dist Balod (c.g.) do here -by solemnly declared that I have Changed the name of my wife Named Reejbai to Reej bai due to wrongly recorded in my service Documents & her date of birth is 17/04/1995. Thus such correction may be done in my army Documents</p> <p>(Affidavit No. 382514) Date :19/01/2022</p>

Internal Assessment Examinations at CU from Feb 7

Bilaspur, Feb 05: The first unit tests, a part of internal assessment for odd semesters, will start from February 07 in all the schools of the University Teaching Departments of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University). Internal assessment examinations will be conducted according to the academic calendar 2021-22 released by the Central University. Academic calendar 2021-22 is being followed strictly in the Central University.

BRIEF

Silver

Mumbai: A 34-year-old man has been arrested from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly stealing 254 kg of silver worth Rs 1.77 crore belonging to a city-based jeweler. Yashwant Hardeo Acharya, the accused, was arrested by a team of VP Road police station here last month, said an official. A city-based jeweler had alleged that he had given 254 kg of silver and Rs 10 lakh in cash to Acharya for safekeeping, but the latter tried to sell it off.

Thieves

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested two men and seized three vehicles, including one bearing a home ministry sticker, stolen by them. The accused have been identified as Tayyab (38), a resident of Seelampur; and Salman (24), a resident of Shamli in Uttar Pradesh, they said. As Republic Day celebrations were on, the theft of a car bearing a home ministry sticker could have proven to be a security hazard and posed a threat.

Accused

Puducherry: A court convicted six people of planting pipe-bomb under car of former Chief Minister of Puducherry V Narayanasamy at his house here in January 2014 and awarded them imprisonment. Chief Judge of Puducherry Selvanathan, handling cases of National Investigation Agency, sentenced five of accused to seven years imprisonment while remaining one got five years.

Busted

Indore: City police raided a factory which made fake asafoetida ('Hing' spice) and seized goods worth Rs 50 lakh, an official said. Fake asafoetida was being made at the factory in Palda area by mixing an essence in wheat flour and refined wheat, Crime Branch Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Nimish Agrawal said. Four quintals of fake spice was seized and a case was registered against factory owner Sahil Makhija, he said.

Complaint

Kolkata: Notices bearing forged signatures of respective registrars of two top universities in West Bengal have surfaced on social media, asking students of all departments to find their 'sweethearts' on Valentine's Day. The fake notices — one with Jadavpur University's logo and other with that of Visva Bharati — have also said that stag entry would be prohibited on February 14. JU Registrar Snehamanju Basu said complaints were lodged.

Mob

Guna: A 30-year-old man was tied and beaten up by a mob in Guna in Madhya Pradesh on suspicion that he was teasing a girl in the neighbourhood, with a video of the assault going viral on social media soon after. The incident happened in Nanakhedi area and the mob also included women, an official said, adding that three people have been arrested. After the video of the incident went viral, Cantonment police registered a case.

'Modi-Yogi' factor replaced 'Muslim-Yadav' factor in UP

Noida, Feb 05 (PTI):

Hitting out at the syndicate of Samajwadi Party-BSP-Congress ahead of the assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Saturday said his party's Modi-Yogi factor has replaced the previous Muslim-Yadav factor which was communal and casteist.

The Union minister and the Deputy Leader of the BJP in the Rajya Sabha also credited his party for ushering in a golden age in Uttar Pradesh, which he said was earlier counted in the BI-MARU states, (or sick states, referring to less developed states).

He was campaigning for the BJP in Gautam Buddh



Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi during election campaign in Noida on Saturday.

Nagar district in the western part of the state, where the three assembly constituencies of Noida, Jewar and Dadri will go to the polls on February 10.

The BJP has defeated the pseudo-secularism and appeasement politics with the determination to development with dignity of all. The MY (Modi-Yogi) factor,

which is synonymous with inclusive empowerment, has replaced the previous MY (Muslim-Yadav) factor, which was a symbol of communalism and casteism, Naqvi said. While addressing locals at a 'Jan Chaupal' at Haldoni village, he alleged that the SBC (SP-BSP-Congress) syndicate betrayed the people of Uttar Pradesh during its more than 60 years' rule. The best state had been made a BI-MARU state by this SBC syndicate, he said, asking people to teach them a lesson during the upcoming polls. Naqvi said the tenure of BJP leaders late Kalyan Singh, Rajnath Singh and now Yogi Adityanath as the UP chief minister is considered as the golden period of the state.

Subdued 'Saraswati Puja' celebrations in WB amid restrictions

Kolkata, Feb 05 (PTI):

Saraswati Puja was celebrated in households and educational institutions across West Bengal in a subdued manner on Saturday with strict adherence to COVID-19 norms.

As weather conditions improved after incessant rain on the previous day, campuses of colleges and universities came to life as students turned up in large numbers to offer 'pushpanjali' to the goddess of learning.

Students were overjoyed as Saraswati Puja was celebrated in many schools after two years.

Many educational institutions, where the festival was celebrated with participants wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, had reopened a couple of days back.

Children offered prayers to the goddess of learning at household and community pujas in Kolkata and other parts



Saraswati Puja in Kolkata on Saturday.

of the state.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee greeted people on the occasion, tweeting in Bengali, "Goddess Saraswati, give us knowledge, impart a cultured way of thinking among us, light up our minds with the flame of Spring. Happy Saraswati Puja on Basant Panchami to everyone."

The festival also brought smiles to the faces of clay-modellers of

Kumartuli as many of them made decent sales.

"This year was better than the last one. All 100 idols in my workshop have been sold out. There were many last-minute bookings since February 1 after celebration of the festival was confirmed in schools, as a result of which many of these institutions had to make do with smaller idols meant for households," artisan Jiten Pal said.

Sedition case against RLD Bijnor candidate over poll slogans

Bijnor, Feb 05 (PTI): A sedition case has been registered against a Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) candidate from Bijnor over alleged pro-Pakistan slogans during campaigning for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, police said on Saturday.

According to the police, a few days ago, a video of door-to-door campaigning of RLD candidate from Bijnor Neeraj Chaudhary went viral in which it is heard that some people are allegedly raising Pakistan Zindabad slogans.

When contacted, Station House Officer (SHO) of Kotwali Bijnor Radhay Shyam told PTI, "A case of

sedition has been registered against RLD candidate from Bijnor assembly constituency Neeraj Chaudhary. When he was undertaking door-to-door campaigning, some people accompanying him allegedly raised 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans.

A case has been registered against Neeraj Chaudhary and 20-25 others under various sections of the IPC including 124-A (sedition) and 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and the Epidemic Diseases Act," he added.

Notices to collectors of four MP districts over firecracker order violation

Bhopal, Feb 05 (PTI):

The Bhopal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the collectors of four major districts in Madhya Pradesh, seeking their replies on the contempt plea, which alleged that they did not ensure compliance with the tribunal's previous order as people at these places burst firecrackers during Diwali last year, leading to rise in air pollution.

In the order, NGT's judicial member Shivkumar Singh and member expert Arun Kumar Verma directed the collectors of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior to file their replies within four weeks, the petitioners' counsel

Prabhat Yadav told PTI on Saturday.

The contempt petition moved by Dr P G Nappandey and Rajat Bhargava of Jabalpur said the NGT had on October 27 last year banned bursting of crackers and allowed the use of only green crackers for limited time on Diwali (November 4), where the air quality index (AQI) was below 200, he said.

As per the petition, on the next day of Diwali, the AQI in these four districts shot up due to bursting of banned crackers and caused breathing problems among people in the midst of the outbreak of COVID-19, a respiratory disease, Yadav said.

YOGI'S CONSTITUENCY



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath interacts with children during his visit to Gopal Mandir, in Gorakhpur in his own constituency on Saturday.

'Won't allow 'Talibanisation' of education system'

Bengaluru, Feb 05 (PTI):

Amid continuing protests by a section of students seeking permission from authorities to wear Hijab in classrooms in some colleges in Karnataka, the BJP state chief Nalin Kumar Kateel on Saturday said the state government will not allow 'Talibanisation' of the education system.

Kateel's remarks come as Burqa-clad women in some parts of the state continued to protest against the decision to bar female students from wearing 'hijab' (headscarf) inside classes.

"There is no scope for such things (wearing Hijab in classrooms). Our government will take stringent action. People have to follow the rules and regulations of the school. We will not allow Talibanisation (of the education system)," he told reporters here.

Asserting that bringing religion to educational institutions was not right, Kateel said what children require is edu-



Nalin Kumar Kateel

cation.

"There is no scope for Hijab or any such thing in the schools. Schools are the temples of 'Sarasvati' (Goddess of knowledge). It is the duty of the students to learn and abide by the regulations of the school," the BJP leader said.

Vijayapura BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal said some people were intentionally demanding permission for wearing Hijab in classrooms.

"Once that demand is fulfilled, they will seek permission to wear Burqa and then to construct mosque inside the school," he alleged. "The

demands will go on. Those who are supporting them are the real traitors."

Yatnal said those behind such movements should be exposed. The MLA suspected the involvement of some anti-national forces in 'disturbing' the peace in the state.

To a query on Lord Ganesha being worshipped in educational institutions and people entering schools and colleges sporting vermilion on their forehead, Yatnal said, "This is India and our country is founded on the Indian culture. We have already given them Pakistan on the basis of religion for them to wear Hijab."

In Kalaburagi, Muslim students and others holding placards and banners staged a demonstration led by Congress MLA Kaneez Fathima.

They raised slogans like 'We want justice' and 'Gundagardi Nahi Chalegi' (Hooliganism will not be tolerated).

The MLA said she

would raise the matter in the Karnataka assembly demanding permission for Hijab in the classrooms. In Udupi too, a similar demonstration took place where students came to the campus wearing Burqa and sought permission for Hijab.

Protesting against wearing Hijabs inside the classroom, Hindu boys and girls started coming to some schools and colleges wearing saffron scarves.

The Karnataka government had asked educational institutions to follow existing uniform related rules, until the High Court comes out with an order in this connection. With the issue snowballing into a major controversy, spreading to other educational institutions, and the matter coming up before the High Court, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had held a meeting with Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh and top government officials.

Chronicle

MATRIMONIAL

ब्राह्मण

वर चाहिये

52 / 5' 6" बी.ए. एम.ए. आई.टी.आई. / लोको पावलट कार्यरत सालाना आय 15 लाख हेतु वर चाहिए, घरजमाई, अनपढ़, अनमैरिड, तलाकशुदा, विधु, प्रस्तावशीघ्र आमंत्रित. 09179472796. 07415070430. (53097)

तमिल/तेलगू

वर चाहिये

तेलगू 26/ 5' 11", बी.ए. रंग गौरा अत्यंत सुन्दर गृहकार्य में दक्ष कन्या, पिता व्यवसायी, मध्यम वर्गीय परिवार हेतु सुयोग्य वर चाहिए. अतिशीघ्र विवाह. (जाति बंधन नहीं) संपर्क- मो.-8815820463. (248337)

पंजाबी

वधु चाहिये

पंजाबी वधु चाहिए- दो जुड़वा भाईयों के लिए 02/03/1980, पहला शासकीय हॉस्पिटल में, दूसरा रेलवे में कार्यरत, एक घर की दो बहनों को प्राथमिकता. मैरिज ब्यूरो क्षमा. संपर्क- मो.-7999656686, 7999656393. (248319)

क्रिश्चन

वर चाहिये

क्रिश्चन वर चाहिए- शासकीय कर्मचारी सुकन्या हेतु (उरांव रोमन कैथोलिक) उम्र 34 वर्ष ऊंचाई 5'3" के लिये सजातीय वर चाहिए. सम्पर्क करें मोबाइल- 9669462991. (53093)

गुजराती

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए- गुजराती 26/ 5' 2", बी.एससी, रंग गौरा अत्यंत सुन्दर गृह कार्य में दक्ष कन्या, पिता व्यवसायी परिवार हेतु सुयोग्य वर चाहिए अतिशीघ्र विवाह (सभी गुजराती मान्य) मो.- 08224906578. (248336)

सामान्य

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए - उम्र 30 वर्ष, बी. कॉम, कम्प्यूटर डिप्लोमा, जाति गोटाया (कोल) जबलपुर (म. प्र.) संपर्क- मो.- +917000770787. (248215)

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BRIEF

Crash

■ **Lima:** A light plane carrying sightseers for a tour of the Nazca lines in the Peruvian desert crashed, killing all seven people aboard, including three Dutch and two Chilean tourists, authorities said. Brigadier Juan Tirado, a firefighter with the 82nd Fire Company in Nazca, said the plane went down near an airfield in the city. The Nazca lines themselves were not damaged. The aircraft carried the five tourists, and a Peruvian pilot and co-pilot.

Hacked

■ **Washington:** News Corp, publisher of The Wall Street Journal, said that it had been hacked and had data stolen from journalists and other employees, and a cybersecurity firm investigating the intrusion said Chinese intelligence gathering was believed behind the operation. The news company, whose publications and businesses include the New York Post and WSJ parent Dow Jones, said it discovered the breach last month on Jan 20.

Sanctions

■ **Brussels:** The European Union imposed sanctions on five senior members of Mali's transitional government, including Prime Minister Choguel Maiga, accusing them of working to obstruct and undermine the transition from military to civilian rule. The move comes days after Mali coup leaders ordered France's ambassador to leave in what was the latest episode in a growing diplomatic crisis between impoverished country, and its neighbours.

Nominated

■ **Berlin:** Russian state-owned gas company Gazprom said that German ex-Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has been nominated to join its board of directors, a move that comes as the former leader has faced criticism for accusing Ukraine of saber-rattling during its standoff with Russia. Schroeder, who led Germany from 1998 to 2005, developed a close relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin when he was chancellor.

Macron's Govt seeks French makeover for Islam

● **Promote respect for secularism and women's rights**

Nice, Feb 05 (AP):

The French government on Saturday forged ahead with efforts to reshape Islam in France and rid it of extremism, introducing a new body made up of clergy and laymen and women to help lead the largest Muslim community in western Europe. With France bloodied by past Islamic extremist attacks, having hun-



View of a mosque in France.

dreds of citizens who went to fight with jihadists in Syria in past years and thousands of French troops now fighting extremists in Africa, few disagree that radicalization is a danger. But critics also see the

efforts as a political ploy to lure right-wing voters to President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party ahead of April's presidential election.

The new body, called the Forum of Islam in France, is being introduced Saturday by the French Interior Ministry. Supporters say it will keep the country and its 5 million Muslims safe and free of foreign influence, and ensure that Muslim practices in France adhere to the country's cherished value of secularism in public life.

Stung by prison battle, Kurds say they need help against IS

● **SDF has to watch over some 10,000 captured IS fighters**

Hassakeh, Feb 05 (AP):

Weeks after the long, furious battle with militants from the Islamic State group over a prison in northeastern Syria, the mangled wreckage of a car used by suicide bombers still sat outside its perimeter. Cranes put in place new cement blast walls to close off the entrance. Gaping holes remained in the prison's outer wall, an ominous reminder of the IS inmates who escaped dur-



Civilians return to the city after fighting subsided in Hassakeh, Syria.

ing the fighting. The battle for Gweiran Prison is over; it took 10 days, but US-backed, Syrian Kurdish-led forces finally defeated the militants who attacked the facility in the city of Hassakeh, aiming to break free their comrades jailed inside, in the group's largest and most stunning operation in years. But the impact continues to reverberate. Residents in neighboring districts are locked down as Kurdish fighters hunt for fugitive militants hiding among them.

As Mideast wars encroach on UAE, US gets drawn in

Dubai, Feb 05 (AP):

The wars of the wider Middle East that long surrounded the United Arab Emirates now have encroached into daily life in this US-allied nation, threatening to draw America further into a region inflamed by tensions with Iran.

Yemen's Houthi rebels have launched missile and drone attacks since January targeting the Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms home to oil-rich Abu Dhabi and the skyscrapers and beaches of Dubai. American forces at Al-Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, home to some 2,000 US troops, twice have opened fire with their own Patriot missiles to help intercept the air assaults by the Iranian-backed Houthis.

The two incidents represent the first time since 2003 that the US has fired the Patriot in combat, a nearly 20-year span. It also comes after the Biden administration's chaotic



USS Cole is seen as its sailors transfer control of a stateless fishing vessel to the Yemen Coast Guard.

withdrawal from Afghanistan and its declared end to the American combat mission in Iraq. Though overshadowed by the Ukraine crisis, the US now says it is committing more advanced fighter jets to the Emirates, as well as sending the USS Cole on a mission there. This spillover of Yemen's years-long war into the UAE puts American troops in the crosshairs of the Houthi attacks and raises the risk of a regional escalation at a crucial moment of talks in Vienna to potentially restore Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

The Emirates since its founding in 1971 has been an otherwise safe corner of the Mideast. During the bloody 1980s war between Iran and Iraq, Dubai's massive Jebel Ali port repaired ships damaged in the so-called Tanker War. The 1991 Gulf War saw Kuwaitis flee into the Emirates and gave birth to the close military ties America has with the country. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that followed again saw Dubai take in the money and families of wealthy émigrés. But the Emirates always seemed to remain out of bounds amid its neighbors' wars.

'Radical ideologies and political ideologies are not same'

United Nations, Feb 05 (PTI):

India has underlined the need to distinguish between political ideologies that are part of a pluralistic democratic polity and the radical ideologies that subscribe to terrorism, emphasizing that any attempt to paint both of them with the same brush is "inaccurate" and "counterproductive".

Speaking at the Ambassador-level Annual Briefing to Member States organised by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti said India has always maintained that nations should not go back to pre-9/11 era



TS Tirumurti

when terrorists were being divided into your terrorist and my terrorist'.

He said the categorising this weakens the collective resolve to combat terrorism.

We see a renewal of this attempt by trying to divide terror again into categories and label them. For exam-

ple, under the label of xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion or belief, efforts have been made to bring into this discussion categories such as right-wing extremism, far right and far left extremism, violent nationalism, racially ethnically motivated violent nationalism, he said. Tirumurti said there is a need to understand is that in democracies right-wing and left-wing are part of the polity and come to power through elections reflecting the majority will of the people. Democracy by definition contains a broad spectrum of ideologies and beliefs. We need to distinguish between the political ideologies which are part of a pluralistic democratic polity, as against radical ideologies which subscribe to terrorism. Our fight is against such radical ideologies and not against democracy. To paint them with the same brush is inaccurate and counterproductive, he said. Amid efforts to prepare report of the Secretary-General mandated by the General Assembly to assess the threat posed by the terrorist acts on the basis of xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, Tirumurti underlined that we should not be selective in our approach but in fact seek to implement a zero-tolerance against terror.

China says US should reduce North Korea tensions

United Nations, Feb 05 (AP):

China's UN ambassador said the US should come up with more attractive and more practical policies and actions to reduce tensions with North Korea and avoid a return to a vicious circle of confrontation, condemnation and sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile program. Zhang Jun said that the solution lies in direct dialogue and that if the Biden administration wants to see a breakthrough with Pyongyang they should show more sincerity and flexibility.

In rare remarks to reporters on Beijing's views on the US-North Korean nuclear dispute, the Chinese ambassador said, What I see is the key in solving this issue is already in the hands of the

United States.

Asked what else the United States should do since it has already said it is prepared to talk with North Korea, Zhang pointed to talks between then US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore and Hanoi. We have seen the suspension of the nuclear test, we have seen the suspension of the launch of intercontinental ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the official name of North Korea, he said. And then what has been done by the US? Zhang said the Biden administration should be asked in what way they can accommodate the concerns of DPRK... to really bring tension down and then to put things under control.

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2.	Boni Bai Nayak	Car-CG-22-G-0501, Make-MARUTI Model-ERTIGA SHVS VDI	Rs. 3,60,000/- Rs. 36,000/-

Parking yard address for Sr no. 1- Aryan Parking Yard, Bhatagaon (Kokdi), Balodabazar & **Parking yard address for Sr. No. 02-** At-Rajiv Binar, Sipat Road, Basant Vinar Chowk, Bilaspur

Terms and conditions of Sale:

- The sealed envelope should mark as Quotation for purchase of Vehicle which will be opened at 11 am on 22/02/2022. Successful bidders with highest bid shall have to take delivery of the vehicle from place of location 'As is where is basis' and 'As is what is basis'. Bank does not give any guarantee on the vehicles. Bids offered below the Reserve Price will not be accepted for consideration; Bank has the right to reject any application at any point of time without stating any reason. 3. The Sale Price will be exclusive of GST. 4. The successful bidder will have to deposit 25% of quoted price by next working day of auction and will have to pay the entire amount within 7 days from the date of auction. If the bidders fails to comply any of the condition, his/her bid will be forfeited and the 2nd bidder will be allocated subject to payment within due course. 5. This public auction advertisement will also be considered as a pre-sale auction notice and bidders are requested to clear the dues before 21/02/2022 to avoid auction of their assets. 6. The cost of transfer of ownership and any relevant cost will be borne by the bidder. Contact person-Joginatha Mohapatra, IDBI Bank Ltd. Mobile no-7684839939

Place : Bhatapara, Date : 06.02.2022 Authorised Signatory, IDBI Bank Ltd.

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता
महानदी गोदावरी कछार, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ई- प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक **91853/निविदा सूचना क्र. 18/वलेलि/2021-22**, बेमेतरा दिनांक **03.02.2022**

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए दिनांक 24.02.2022 17:30 तक ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है कार्य का नाम बेमेतरा जिले के विकासखंड सुरही नदी पर देउलगांव तटबंध सुरक्षा योजना के बांयी ओर आर.डी 0 मी. से 450 मी. तक तटबंध कार्य।

अनुमानित लागत - ₹. 232.44 लाख

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 10.02.2022 समय 17:31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं।

नोट : निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु टेकेदारों को ई प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत प्रणाली के अंतर्गत टेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

कार्यालय अभियंता
 जल संसाधन संभाग, बेमेतरा
 मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार,
 जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.

G-67487/1

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड बेमेतरा छ.ग.

ई- प्रोक्यूरमेंट तृतीय निविदा सूचना

ऑनलाइन निविदाएं प्रपत्र-ए में प्रतिशत दर पर अनुबंध हेतु नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिए छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से अधोस्तारकर्ता के कार्यालय में एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था में श्रेणी-डी एवं उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है।

स.क्र.	सिस्टम नंबर	तृतीय निविदा सूचना क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत रु. लाख में
1	91834	248	Providing laying, jointing, testing and commissioning of Distribution Network & Clear Water Rising Main 150mm dia D.I. K-9 & 200mm dia to 250mm dia D.I. K-7 Pipe with suitable joints all fitting including all allied civil works with trial run operation & Maintenance under Bemetera Aug. Water Supply scheme, District - Bemetera 150 mm Dia D.I. K-9 pipe-20 220 mm Dia D.I. K-7 pipe-558 250 mm Dia D.I. K-7 pipe-178	21.30

- बीड प्रारंभ की तिथि - 08.02.2020
- बीड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि - 16.02.2022

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 08.02.2022 से देखे जा सकते हैं।

कार्यालय अभियंता
 लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड
 बेमेतरा छत्तीसगढ़

G-67451/2

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन बिलासपुर की ओर कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र 'अ' (प्रतिशत दर) ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

सिस्टम क्रमांक	निविदा क्र दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	धरोहर राशि
91336	239/29.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तखतपुर के ग्राम मोवाकापा में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना	44.16	33500.00
91337	240/29.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तखतपुर के ग्राम छिरहाकापा में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना	8.79	7000.00
91338	241/29.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तखतपुर के ग्राम दर्रीकापा में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना	49.03	37000.00
91339	242/29.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तखतपुर के ग्राम देवतरा में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना	74.94	57000.00

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छ.ग. शासन के ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 05.02.2022 सुबह 10:30 बजे से उपलब्ध है तथा दिनांक 22.02.2022 समय 17:30 तक बीड डाले जा सकते हैं एवं अन्य विवरण कार्यालयीन समय पर लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में देखे जा सकते हैं।

कार्यालय अभियंता
 लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड
 बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

G-67470/5

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड-जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई- प्रोक्यूरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्र सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-
 कार्य का नाम - जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों में रिट्रोफिटिंग एवं एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना अंतर्गत 63 से 75 मिमी. व्यास के HDPE पाईप ए 20 मिमी व्यास के कंयोजिट पाईप एवं 90 मि. मी. व्यास के यू.पी.वी.सी. पाईप 6 & 10 kg/cm2, स्पेशल, सॉलिट प्रदाय कर जोड़ने, बिछाने, इंटरकनेक्शन टैरिंटिंग क्लोरिनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरिनेटर रूम, स्वीच रूम, रेनोवेशन, धरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं अन्य संबंधित समस्त कार्य, 6 माह टायल रन सॉलिट स्वीकृत शैड्यूल अनुसार।

क्र. निविदा क्र / दिनांक / सिस्टम नंबर	कार्य स्थल का नाम	अनुमानित लागत रु. लाख में	अनुमानित राशि रु. में
1 135/16-11-2021/91828	विकासखण्ड मनोरा ग्राम बूमले में रिट्रोफिटिंग योजना FHTC 90 नग	20.75	15600/-
2 137/16-11-2021/91829	विकासखण्ड फरसाबाहार ग्राम बारोरनई में रिट्रोफिटिंग योजना FHTC 292 नग	39.89	29950/-
3 147/24-11-2021/91831	विकासखण्ड जशपुर ग्राम कदमटोली, देवीडंडगांव एवं राईपाट के विभिन्न बसाहटों में एकल ग्राम योजना FHTC	191.98	144000/-
4 149/24-11-2021/91832	विकासखण्ड बगीचा ग्राम गुडलू एकल ग्राम योजना FHTC 338 नग	99.72	74800/-
5 140/16-11-2021/91833	विकासखण्ड कांसाबेल ग्राम दोकडा,नकबार एवं चेटवा एकल ग्राम योजना FHTC 1061 नग	304.17	152100/-

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाइन (online) निविदा दिनांक 17.02.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जल जीवन मिशन कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज, एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अभियंता
 लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड
 जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

G-67462/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 124

Challenge for Yogi Adityanath

Yogi Adityanath filed his nomination from the Gorakhpur Urban assembly seat. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressed a rally before filing his nomination at the collectorate office. In his election affidavit, Yogi Adityanath declared assets worth Rs 1,54,94,054. This includes cash in hand, balance of six bank accounts and savings. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister also declared that he owns a Samsung mobile phone worth Rs 12,000, a revolver worth Rs 1,00,000 and a rifle worth Rs 80,000. Voting in Gorakhpur Urban seat will be held in the sixth phase of the UP polls on March 3. Despite Gorakhpur being considered a 'safe' seat to win for Yogi Adityanath, the changed dynamics in society have made the path for Yogi Adityanath challenging. Adityanath is the disciple and successor of Avedyanath, besides being his nephew (on maternal side). Born in 1972, also to a Garhwali Ksatriya family, he got a very early start in politics, competing in a students' union election as an independent candidate, 18 and later was elected in the 1998 national election on a BJP ticket, being the youngest member in the Lok Sabha. In 2017, Yogi was not the chief ministerial candidate. The then UP BJP president Keshav Prasad Maurya was the frontrunner for the top chair in the state. Yogi Adityanath marred his chances. It is most popularly believed that even Modi and Shah were not in his favour, but the RSS put its foot down. His appointment was a great gamble. Because Yogi, despite being a five time MP, was more recognised as the religious head of Gorakhpur Peeth, which has been revered for centuries among Hindus and Muslims alike.

Like Narendra Modi, Yogi had no administrative experience when he was chosen to lead the biggest state in the country. But Modi took to administration like a fish to water. He showed enormous talent not only in managing the bureaucracy but also his own party. Yogi forgot that UP is not Gujarat. In UP, which is still rooted in feudalism, politicians have big egos and are very assertive. They need to be dealt with a lot more finesse and tact. Beyond a point, bureaucrats can't dominate political leaders and this proved to be Yogi's biggest undoing. During the pandemic, several BJP ministers, MPs and MLAs wrote letters and severely criticised their own government. As Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath has had to prove that he is a tough administrator and can run the government effectively and efficiently. In the last four years he has not only neutralized his opponents in the party but also shown a vice-like grip over the administration. Like Modi, nothing moves without his consent, and nobody can afford to cross his path. The hard political fact is, what Yogi does today, others in the BJP do tomorrow. He is also the only one who can compete for headlines with Modi. And ask any BJP leader in any state who are the three speakers guaranteed to attract a crowd, and who all of them want. There's Modi, of course. But the second is Yogi. But Yogi Adityanath is contesting this election from his own turf Gorakhpur and is sure to win the seat. Gorakhpur has been well known for its mafia-style mix of business and politics. This gangsterism, as they demonstrate, expanded in the following decades, with hard competition among politicians cum businessmen and various attempts by state governments to curb or enlist the main protagonists. In the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, gangster rivalries and gory murders became the everyday narrative of local politics. Even today, Gorakhpur remains in backward purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh with less industrialisation and the connected youth like to see industrial development, not just polarisation for winning election.

Impact of boycott

India joined the US-led diplomatic boycott of Beijing's Winter Olympics after China included a soldier who was involved in Galwan skirmish with Indian troops in the torch relay ahead of the Opening Ceremonies. The United States, Canada, Australia and Britain are among the countries that have announced diplomatic boycotts to protest Chinese human rights abuses in Xinjiang. A coalition of nearly two hundred rights groups argues that participating in the Beijing Olympics would be turning a blind eye to these abuses and could be seen as an endorsement of the Chinese Communist Party's authoritarian rule. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), which organizes and oversees the games, has sought to avoid the controversy, reaffirming that it maintains a neutral position on political issues. Experts say it is difficult to measure a boycott's success. Boycotts have impacts in a variety of ways that are almost always indirect, almost always over a relatively extended period of time, and sometimes counterproductive. For example, the Soviet Union didn't leave Afghanistan because of the 1980 boycott, but the boycott eroded the prestige it hoped to gain from the games and signaled growing disapproval of Moscow's actions.

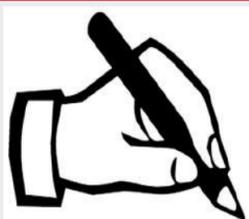
Olympic boycotts and calls for boycotts have been effective in calling global attention to an issue though not necessarily in changing a host nation's behavior. Human rights advocates called for athletes to pull out of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin because of the Nazi rule in Germany. China's foreign ministry has warned of a 'robust response' to any boycotts, including taking unspecified 'countermeasures'. For all the talk of a diplomatic boycott, Chinese leader Xi Jinping has managed to attract a globe-spanning roster of presidents, royals and other dignitaries to the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. The fact that most of them represent countries that are unlikely to win any medals if they're even competing at all doesn't seem to matter. While the decisions to keep officials away have dented the 'propaganda coup' that Xi might have hoped for, the number of leaders that China has managed to attract is nevertheless testament to the country's growing economic clout. Tournament of sports is secondary, but geopolitical impact can long lasting. India has taken a principled stand to boycott shows the belief in democracy.

BALLOON WARMING



A man warms up the air inside a hot air balloon during a hot air balloon festival held in Penaflo, on the outskirts of Santiago, Chile.

Homegardens natural solution for climate change mitigation

ARATHI MENON

Long before global warming became a topic of hot discourse worldwide, certain traditional practices of humans, like homegardens, have served as natural ways to maintain environmental equilibrium. Homegardens are defined as intimate, multistoried combinations of various trees, plants, herbs and crops, sometimes in association with domestic animals, around the homestead. They cannot be confused with ornamental manicured (home) gardens with exotic and non-native species. A popular practice in many parts of South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and Africa, homegardens are left to grow wild, around homes and sustain their owners with everything from food and fuel to shade during summer months. Beyond what is apparent, these tropical homegardens provide a range of invisible ecosystem services such as holding species diversity, acting as carbon sinks and windbreaks, replenishing water tables and managing hydrological cycles.

Homegardens are a type of land use system developed mostly by subsistence farmers. The south Indian state of Kerala has a tradition of homegardens that has served as a topic of study for researchers in different parts of the world, particularly for the biodiversity they hold, says B Mohan Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Arunachal University of Studies who co-authored the book on homegardens in Kerala titled Tropical Homegardens: A Time-Tested Example of Sustainable Agroforestry. He explains that these

homegardens have traditionally been a type of agroforestry and are similar to the homegardens found extensively in Sri Lanka and Java in Indonesia. In most cases, these intensively managed systems form the main source of nutrition and income for the household. But what truly sets the Kerala homegardens apart, is the diversity of species. Kerala-based environmentalist KV Dayal has developed a unique homegarden in his 1.5-acre land following an agroecological design wherein 10 percent of the land is maintained as a natural ecosystem with a manmade hill and a pond, while 90 percent is a cultivated ecosystem or a food forest.

This mini-forest around his home fulfills fivefold objectives of acting as windbreaks, replenishing groundwater table, providing food for all living things that depend on it, conserving biodiversity and creating a microclimate. Dayal's homegarden boasts of over 200 species of trees, plants and herbs, a variety of avifauna, animals like monitor lizards, civets, and insects and reptiles. A study on the biodiversity of 75 homegardens in Kerala, revealed that the biodiversity of homegardens studied was comparable with natural forested regions in the area. A study published in 2021 conducted on a one-hectare area of homegardens in Kerala found that 992 trees from 66 species belonging to 31 families of which four were endemic and one each were vulnerable and endangered. The diversity indices obtained were closer to those of a forest ecosystem. What does it mean? The species density of a land-use system can determine the carbon sequestration potential of the system. Homegardens with high species density is found to have better soil organic carbon stock, making them a key ally in our efforts to reduce carbon in the atmosphere. 'Sunlight is the life of the soil. It reaches the soil through photosynthesis in plants. Plants act as carriers of carbon to the soil. The carbon that needs to be in the soil to nourish it is now in the air, leading to global warming,' illustrates Dayal. Since sun-

light is a fundamental natural resource, the idea of his homegarden is to capture it fully through trees and plants and make the most of it.

The 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report breaks the ecosystem services of nature into four categories provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control, cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits and supporting services such as nutrient cycling. Homegardens in Kerala tick all these boxes. Mohan Kumar lists a range of contributions that homegardens provide people. 'Provisioning services include food production in terms of fruits, nuts, grains, herbs and medicines. Traditionally, fuelwood for the kitchen came from the homegarden and served as an important source of domestic energy. Homegardens also provide timber as a source of income, medicines for home use and cut and carry fodder for the livestock,' he elaborates. In the book Tropical Homegardens, he writes about how homegardens provide various supporting and regulative services as well. 'Climate change has emerged as a major environmental problem at the turn of the century. The principal reason is the rising carbon levels in the atmosphere. The best way to mitigate this is by trapping carbon in the air with the help of vegetation or biomass,' says Kumar. The carbon thus trapped will increase the organic carbon in the soil, thereby improving the health of the soil. Homegardens, thus have the potential to sequester carbon.

In his studies on home gardens, Kumar finds that the carbon concentration above the ground in homegardens was 60 to 70 tonnes of carbon per hectare and the organic carbon stock in the soil was 80-100 tonnes carbon per hectare in 1m depth of soil. It reaches the soil through photosynthesis in plants. Plants act as carriers of carbon to the soil. The carbon that needs to be in the soil to nourish it is now in the air, leading to global warming,' illustrates Dayal. Since sun-

light is a fundamental natural resource, the idea of his homegarden is to capture it fully through trees and plants and make the most of it. The 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report breaks the ecosystem services of nature into four categories provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control, cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits and supporting services such as nutrient cycling. Homegardens in Kerala tick all these boxes. Mohan Kumar lists a range of contributions that homegardens provide people. 'Provisioning services include food production in terms of fruits, nuts, grains, herbs and medicines. Traditionally, fuelwood for the kitchen came from the homegarden and served as an important source of domestic energy. Homegardens also provide timber as a source of income, medicines for home use and cut and carry fodder for the livestock,' he elaborates. In the book Tropical Homegardens, he writes about how homegardens provide various supporting and regulative services as well. 'Climate change has emerged as a major environmental problem at the turn of the century. The principal reason is the rising carbon levels in the atmosphere. The best way to mitigate this is by trapping carbon in the air with the help of vegetation or biomass,' says Kumar. The carbon thus trapped will increase the organic carbon in the soil, thereby improving the health of the soil. Homegardens, thus have the potential to sequester carbon. In his studies on home gardens, Kumar finds that the carbon concentration above the ground in homegardens was 60 to 70 tonnes of carbon per hectare and the organic carbon stock in the soil was 80-100 tonnes carbon per hectare in 1m depth of soil. It reaches the soil through photosynthesis in plants. Plants act as carriers of carbon to the soil. The carbon that needs to be in the soil to nourish it is now in the air, leading to global warming,' illustrates Dayal. Since sun-

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(Arathi Menon writes on ecological policy, based in Mysuru, Karnataka)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Loopholes remain

The Parliament in winter session had passed the "Election Laws (Amendment) Bill (2021)" which facilitates the linking of a person's Aadhaar number with electoral roll data. This step has been hailed by many as a significant step in bringing about electoral reforms in India. Linking electoral rolls with the Aadhaar ecosystem will help identify duplicate voters, purge the electoral rolls of multiple enrolments, and help put an end to the practice of fraudulent voting. Further, in a nation identified by a high degree of internal migration, where migrants at times find themselves disenfranchised, linking the two could help them in exercising their right to vote. However, the said bill suffers from certain drawbacks as well. Firstly, Aadhaar is only meant to be a digital identity for all residents of India and not citizenship proof. A residence of 182 days can even make a non-citizen eligible for an Aadhaar ID. Secondly, the enrolment processes for voters' lists and Aadhaar are completely different. Whereas Aadhaar enrolment is based on the production of existing documents and the "introducer system", voter enrolments involve physical verification and "house visits" by a registration officer or representative. Thirdly, maintenance of the voters' list is a primary responsibility of the ECI (which is an independent constitutional body) whereas Aadhaar is a government instrument and UIDAI is under government control. Since the ECI has no control over either enrolment or de-duplication in Aadhaar, so it appears that the linking of Aadhaar with electoral rolls may result in a conflict of interest. Moreover, considering the variety of applications where Aadhaar ID finds its usage, linking the same with voter ID may result in possibilities of profiling and targeting of voters. In view of the above-mentioned reasons, it can be concluded that although the passage of the Bill is a welcome electoral reform, the associated loopholes need to be plugged in so that it achieves its intended objective.

Mihir Kumar, via email

Remains mystery

Centuries have rolled by since the lifetime of one of the chief founding proponents and the Pitamaha of Carnatic music Saint Purandara Dasa, but his birthplace still remains a mystery. In fact, to explore definitive archaeological evidence regarding the birthplace of this great composer, the Karnataka government undertook some field research work during the summer of 2020. However, to date neither has there been any concrete evidence nor any update on this research work that would end all speculations about the composer's birthplace. Inscriptional evidence strongly suggests that Purandara Dasa was born in 1484 CE at Keshavapura in Tirthahalli, Karnataka. Though there were theories that his native town was Purandaragad near Pune, it was later considered a historical mistake. Purandara Dasa was a wealthy diamond merchant from Karnataka who gave away all his material riches to become a Hindu monk. His compositions are mostly in Kannada and some are in Sanskrit too. These details add credence to Purandara Dasa's birthplace at Keshavapura and confirm that the mystic poet wholly belonged to the State of Karnataka. Many may know that it was Purandara Dasa who structured the graded exercises of svaravalis and alankaras in Carnatic music and introduced the raga mayamalavagowla, which is the first scale to be learnt by beginners in the field.

Ranganathan, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Arshia Malik@arshiaunis**

Education is supposed to lead learners from darkness to light; from regression to progress; how can a medieval symbol of backwardness, disempowerment & patriarchy be given place in a temple of learning? Constitutional arguments mean that the Constitution should defend regression?

Amar Sidhu@amarsidhu_

Indians don't value autonomy. From family structures to social norms to education and political eco-systems, everything is geared around creating dependence. One of the major factors our society is stuck in a rut.

**Hardik Rajgor@Hardism**

China deciding to honour its Galwan soldier is not surprising, any self respecting country would do it. China is not confused, they want to be openly rude to India. It is India that lacks clarity, first supporting the Olympics & then diplomatically boycotting after a bloody nose.

Dr. Ajayita@DoctorAjayita

Winter paradise...Himachal.

**Raj S@ Discourse Dancer**

What India needs is to understand how feudalistic all her institutions are and then a push not unlike the civil rights movements in US to truly diversify the make-up of all of India's power-chambers political and otherwise. Integrity depends on diversity of people that make it up.

**shruti@artyshruti**

If you are very picky or emotional about people using your personal pictures including your kids. Best idea would be to not share children's pictures. Yes it's very wrong for anyone to take screenshots of people's Instagram & make fun but then it's best to not share too much.

Akshat@Akshat_World

What's the point of launching India's Central Bank Digital Currency? Most money is digital (it is a note - a ledger- with the RBI). Government controls this note (therefore, it can freeze your accounts). Government's blockchain won't give you/me any autonomy.

BRIEF

Moves

New Delhi: Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has filed a plea before NCLT to initiate insolvency proceedings against Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL). IndusInd Bank, in its plea before the Mumbai bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has claimed a default of Rs 83.08 crore against the media and entertainment firm, ZEEL said. The application has been filed under Section 7 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), said ZEEL. Under Section 7 of IBC, a financial creditor may move NCLT for initiation of CIRP over default of Rs 1 crore and above.

Revival

Mumbai: IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a campaign for revival of individual lapsed policies. Policies, which are in a lapsed condition during the premium paying term and not completed policy term, are eligible to be revived in this campaign, which will begin from February 7 and on March 25, 2022. It said that concessions are being offered in late fee for other than term assurance and high risk plans, depending on the total premiums paid. There are no concessions on medical requirements. Eligible health and micro insurance plans also qualify for the concession in late fee, the release said.

Loss

New Delhi: Digital payments and financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand, reported widening of consolidated loss to Rs 778.5 crore in the December 2021 quarter. Paytm had registered a loss of Rs 535.5 crore in the same period a year ago. Its consolidated revenue from operations, however, increased by about 88 per cent to Rs 1,456 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 772 crore it posted in the December 2020 quarter. Consolidated revenue from operations grew by 89 per cent year on year and 34 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs 1,456 crore in the third quarter of financial year 2022 driven by growth in merchant payments through MDR bearing instruments, new device subscriptions and loan disbursements, Paytm said.

Explore

New Delhi: The telecom department will engage telecom operators for developing 5G use cases in the field of precision agriculture and smart farming in collaboration with the agriculture ministry. A team from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) visited Indian Agriculture Research Institute (ICAR), Pusa Institute, as part of 5G use case lab exploration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW). The visit follows DoT's inter-ministerial committee deliberations and industry presentations with indigenous 5G solutions to MoAFW.

FM urges India Inc to open up their purse to push growth

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTD):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday asked India Inc to invest in the economy so that the virtuous cycle kicks in.

Referring to the government's decision to cut corporate tax rate, she said, the government has also opened up many sectors including atomic energy and space.

The government in September 2019 slashed corporate tax rate for companies that do not avail of any tax incentive, to 22 per cent. New manufacturing companies have to pay at an even lower corporate tax rate of 15 per cent.

The Budget 2022-23 presented on February 1 proposed that the concessional 15 per cent corporate tax rate would be available for one more year till March 2024 for newly incorporat-



Nirmala Sitharaman

ed manufacturing units.

Addressing members of CII, she said industry should quickly join in the government to help virtuous cycle gain traction and push growth.

CII Director General, Chandrajit Banerjee had said that the Finance Minister presented a very growth-oriented and transformative Budget, which will not only strengthen the economic

recovery currently underway, but also lay the foundation for bolstering the medium to long-term growth potential of the economy.

Indian industry welcomes the government's commitment towards boosting investments, creating jobs, improving ease of doing business, maintaining tax stability and certainty in policy regime through the well-designed

and prudent measures delineated in the Budget.

The massive 35.4 per cent rise in capital spending budgeted for 2022-23 is in line with CII's suggestion and lends credence to the government's vision of improving the economy's growth potential through a push to overall productivity of the economy and creation of jobs.

Even as a boost was given to investments, the FM did a fine balancing act of maintaining fiscal discipline by containing the fiscal deficit at 6.9 per cent for the current fiscal and bringing it down along with a steady glide path of 6.4 per cent next year. CII is happy to note that the second pandemic Budget came out with some landmark announcements, which will go a long way in reviving growth by catalysing demand and investments.

Need to expand tax base in proprietorships, LLPs, partnership firms

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTD):

An unbelievably low Rs 31,500 per return is all the tax that non-salaried and non-corporate tax filers such as proprietorships, limited liability partnerships and partnership firms pay, a top government official said, emphasising the need to expand the tax base in this segment.

Speaking at a post-Budget event, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said there have been some "very stark violations" of both direct and indirect tax laws by industry, and nudged industry chambers to be more proactive to see that such instances are minimised.

He said the Budget 2022-23 has not tinkered with individual taxes because the government wanted to spend more on infrastructure to boost the economy. "Maybe



we will wait another year to improve the tax structure a little more," Bajaj said at the PHD Chamber event.

To a question regarding reduction in tax rates on proprietorship, LLPs and partnership firms, Bajaj said it can be looked at only when the tax base in this segment is expanded.

"...when I look at the figures, I find that if I don't include salaried class and corporates, the remaining segment if I look at the I-T return that came up in 2020-21 for which we have done an analysis, only Rs 31,500 per return was paid as tax.

Govt will raise money from small investors for road projects

India not interested in foreign investment

Mumbai, Feb 05 (PTD):

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said the government will not take money from foreign investors to build infrastructure projects like roads, and instead mobilise funds from small investors willing to put Rs 1 lakh for an assured return of 8 per cent per annum.

The minister said a Rs 8,000-crore project to build road over bridges over railway crossings in towns and cities is also under the works, but the announcement will be made after the budget. Gadkari said



his department does works of over Rs 5 lakh crore a year and added that foreign investors are now making a beeline to invest in Indian road projects but clearly stated a lack of interest on his side to engage.

"I do not want to make the rich (more) richer, but will collect money from farmers, farm labourers, constables, clerks and government employees, Gadkari said, addressing an event organised by Maharashtra Chamber of

Govt extends stock limits on edible oils, oilseeds till June

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTD):

In a bid to further cool down edible oil prices and curb hoarding, the Centre has extended stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds till June 30.

Besides, the government has specified the stock limits that have to be imposed by states that have not implemented the earlier order on the limits.

In October 2021, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs had imposed stock limits till March 2022 and left the decision to states to decide on the stock limits based on available stock and consumption pattern.

In pursuance with the Centre's October 2021 order, six states -- Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Bihar -- had imposed the stock limits in their respective states.

Many states had not imposed the stock limits. The ministry felt that imple-



mentation of stock limits across all states was necessary to transfer the full benefit of price control to the end-consumer, an official statement said.

"In an effort to further cool down the prices of edible oils, the government has taken various steps, latest being an order notified on February 3, 2022 specifying the stock limit quantities on edible oils and oilseeds up to June, 30," it said.

For edible oils, the stock limit would be 30 quintals for retailers, 500 quintals for wholesalers, 30 quintals for retail outlets of bulk consumers i.e. big chain retailers and shops and 1,000 quintals for its depots.

Processors of edible oils would be able to stock 90 days of their storage capacities.

For edible oilseeds, the stock limit would be 100 quintals for retailers and 2,000 quintals for wholesalers. Processors of edible oilseeds would be able to stock 90 days production of edible oils as per daily input production capacity, the statement said.

Exporters and importers have been kept outside the purview of this order with some caveats, it added.

In case the stocks held by respective legal entities are higher than the prescribed limits, the ministry said then it has to be declared on the portal (<https://evegoils.nic.in/eosp/login>) of Department of Food and Public Distribution. The stocks have to be brought back to the prescribed stock limits in this control order within 30 days of the issue of this notification, it added.

Amazon.in goes live with fresh offers on 'Super Value Days'

Enjoy up to 45% off on grocery and household essentials, packaged foods, personal care, baby and pet care till February 07, 2022

Bengaluru, Feb 05:

Add the goodness of quality ingredients in your kitchen cabinets and refrigerator, Amazon.in is live with 'Super Value Days' bringing up to 45% off on grocery, household essentials, packaged foods, personal care, and baby and pet care products among others. Super Value Days will be live till February 07, 2022, with grocery deals starting at Rs 1 and free delivery for prime members. Customers can avail great prices and fresh offers from popular brands including Aashirvaad, Saffola,

Fiams, L'Oréal, Dabur, Cadbury, Kellogg, Mother Dairy among others at convenient delivery options from one single online destination. Customers can also avail an instant discount of 10% on Axis Bank Debit & Credit Cards from 4th-7th February with a minimum transaction of Rs 2,500. Some of the offers by participating sellers includes Daawat Rozana Super, basmati Rice, 5Kg at Rs 319, Aashirvaad Select Premium Sharbati Atta, 5Kg Rs 245, Aashirvaad Atta with Multigrains, 5Kg at 255, Saffola Gold Refined Cooking Oil, 5L Rs 1047, Mother Dairy Cow at Rs 440, Godrej Ezee 2-in-1 Liquid Detergent + Fabric Conditioner (Fabric Softener) at Rs 179, Pril Dish Washing Liquid (2L) at Rs 375, Nimyle Eco friendly floor cleaner with Power of Neem for 99.9% anti-bacterial protection, 2L at Rs 281.

Sebi lays guidelines for MFs with respect to Ind AS

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTD):

Capital markets regulator Sebi came out with guidelines for asset management companies (AMCs) with respect to following Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS).

This comes after Sebi amended mutual fund rules which mandated AMCs to prepare the financial statements and accounts of the mutual fund schemes in accordance with Ind AS, with effect from April 1, 2023.

Under the guidelines, mutual fund schemes will have to prepare the opening balance sheet as on date of transition and the comparatives as per the requirements of Ind AS, Sebi said in a circular.

As per mutual fund rules, perspective historical per unit statistics requires disclosure of



scheme wise per unit statistics for the past three years.

In this regard, Sebi said mutual fund schemes may not be mandatorily required to restate the previous years published perpective historical per unit statistics as per requirement of Ind AS for the first two years from first time adoption of Ind AS.

However, mutual fund schemes will have to furnish certain additional information in perspective historical per unit statis-

tics. These additional information are related to label the previous Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) information prominently as not being prepared in accordance with Ind AS; and disclose the nature of the adjustments that would be required to make it comply with Ind AS. Mutual Funds schemes need not quantify those adjustments.

The financial statements of the mutual fund schemes will have to be prepared in a formats specified by the regulator.

Also, Sebi has certain tweaked guidelines in order to align with Ind AS requirement regarding transactions cost of investment to be expensed out (viz. to be charged to Revenue Account instead of Capitalisation).

SBI Q3 net profit surges 62% to Rs 8,432 crore

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTD):

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday posted 62 per cent jump in stand-alone net profit at Rs 8,432 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2021.

The bank had earned a net profit of Rs 5,196 crore in the year-ago period.

"Bank has registered its highest quarterly net profit of Rs 8,432 crore in Q3FY22. This represents an increase of 62.27 per cent YoY," SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Total income also rose to Rs 78,352 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 75,981 crore in



the same period of 2020-21, it said. On a consolidated basis, the SBI Group clocked 51 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 9,692 crore during the quarter as against Rs 6,402 crore in the year-ago period. The bank's asset quality improved as gross non-performing assets fell to 4.5 per cent of gross advances as of December 31, 2021 from 4.77 per cent by the year-ago same period.

Omicron spread likely to be less disruptive for hotel sector

Mumbai, Feb 05 (PTD):

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said the third wave of Covid-19 is likely to impact the operating metrics of the hotel industry in the last quarter of this financial year, but the effect will be less in the April-June period of FY23 due to easing of restrictions.

The overall revenue of all the hotel categories will fall by 5-10 per cent year-on-year for the first quarter of 2022-23, and the fourth quarter of FY22 will see revenue dropping by 25-30 per cent



from its base case scenario, Ind-Ra estimated. Moreover, as witnessed during the first two waves, the ebbing of the infection wave starts from metro cities, therefore, the minimal restrictions by both the Centre and state governments

BharatPe's other founder throws weight behind chief executive

After Grover's demand for CEO ouster

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTD):

A day after Ashneer Grover, the embattled co-founder of BharatPe sought removal of CEO Suhail Sameer from the Board, the fintech startup's other founder Shashvat Nakrani has thrown his weight behind the chief executive, saying the official continues to enjoy his confidence.

In a move that is expected to complicate Grover's pursuit to oust Sameer as both the founders need to consent jointly to remove the CEO, Nakrani asserted that he himself has not given any consent or demand for such removal and that the CEO continues to enjoy his support.



Ashneer Grover and Shashvat Nakrani

Legal experts contend that the CEO cannot be removed from the board on the sole demand of Ashneer Grover and any such removal can only be done jointly by both the co-founders. Lawyers also confirmed that if the CEO is a nominee of both founders, then one founder's unilateral withdrawal is not valid

under the law. When contacted, Nakrani confirmed that he has not given any consent or demand for removal of Suhail Sameer from the Board.

"I have neither given my consent, nor sought the removal of Suhail Sameer from the Board of BharatPe. News reports suggesting this are incorrect", Nakrani said.

He added: "I can confirm that I was one of the two joint nominees in the appointment resolution of Suhail Sameer as the CEO and Board member of BharatPe, and he continues to enjoy my support."

According to the company's Articles of Association (clauses 91.3 and 91.7), Suhail Sameer, the CEO, was jointly nominated by two founders Ashneer Grover and Shashvat Nakrani, as the founders' nominee on the board.

Experts believe that neither Ashneer Grover nor Shashvat Nakrani have an individual right to withdraw the nomination of the CEO from the board, and any removal from the board can only be done jointly by them.

The board of BharatPe currently comprises nine members -- the two founders, one joint founder nominee (CEO), four investor nominees, and two professional independent directors (Rajnish Kumar and Kewal Handa).

The current term for the CEO is for five years and upon completion can be reconfirmed.

According to Mathew Chacko, Founding Partner of Spice Route Legal, the standard venture capital documentation would provide a power to an appointing group to remove a director so appointed.

Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis Equity ETFs FoF'

Mumbai, Feb 05:

Axis Mutual Fund, one of the leading asset management companies in India announced the launch of Axis Equity ETFs FoF (An Open Ended Fund of Fund scheme predominantly investing in units of domestic equity ETFs). The new fund will be managed by Shreyash Devalkar, Fund Manager. The minimum application amount is INR 5,000 and investors can invest in multiples of INR 1, thereafter.

The new fund will track the Nifty 500 TRI benchmark and endeavour to

generate alpha by investing in domestic equity ETFs basis the fund manager's top down investment view. ETFs are one of the most popular vehicles of investing in passive strategies as they replicate the portfolio of the underlying index while trading in bite sized units on an exchange at market determined prices. In 3 years, equity ETFs' AUM has increased to more than 3x. Yet, investors often find it difficult to choose the right ETF, which will help gain potential alpha while maintaining the necessary diversification.



Ravi Teja's action entertainer 'Khiladi' to release in Hindi on Feb 11

Ravi Teja's upcoming action entertainer 'Khiladi' is all set to release in the Hindi language in cinemas on February 11.

Helmed by Ramesh Varma, Ravi Teja will be seen in a completely different role in the film produced by Pen Studios in association with A Studios. The film also stars Meenakshi Chaudhary and Dimple Hayathi in lead roles.

Sharing his views on releasing the movie in Hindi, elated Dr Jayantilal Gada said: "As the times have changed, now there is a demand for original content, as the audience likes to see the film in its purest form."

"As the content of Khiladi is extremely entertaining combined with Ravi Teja's popularity across India, Pen Studios felt that his movie should also be released in the Hindi language too, in cinemas."

The film is presented by Dr Jayantilal Gada (Pen Studios) in association with A Studios. Pen Marudhar will be distributing the film in the North Territory.

Riteish, Genelia to reunite on screen with quirky comedy 'Mister Mummy'



Bollywood couple Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza are all set to star in the upcoming Shaad Ali film, 'Mister Mummy'. The comedy drama will tell the story of a grumpy man, played by Riteish, inexplicably getting pregnant.

At the core of the movie is the story of a couple with opposing choices on the matter of children. Destiny, though, has something else planned for the childhood sweethearts as they set off on a mad, bumpy ride in this comedy drama of revelations and realisations.

The film will also mark the reunion of Riteish and Genelia on screen after a decade. They were last seen together in the 2012 release, 'Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya'.

T-Series Films and Hectic Cinema have joined forces to roll out the film. Directed by Shaad Ali, 'Mister Mummy' has been co-produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Shaad Ali and Siva Ananth.

Allu Arjun signs another endorsement deal, this time for food delivery

Basking in the success of 'Pushpa: The Rise', Allu Arjun is finding himself being sought after to endorse brands. The latest to sign him up is the food delivery app Zomato.

Starring alongside Subbaraj of 'Baahubali' fame in the app's new campaign, Allu Arjun is seen in an uber-cool, action avatar, wiping his beard just the way his character 'Pushpa' does in the film.

Dressed in a white shirt matched with black pants, the actor is seen walloping his opponent, played by Subbaraj, at a shopping mall. Suspended mid-air in one of the sequences, the Subbaraj character expresses his desire to have biryani. That is when Allu Arjun zips out his mobile and asks for the biryani on the app.

Taking off from the thematic 'Pushpa' dialogue, 'Thaggede le' ('Jhukega Nahi' in Hindi), the tweet promoting the commercial said: "Manasu korithe, thaggede! (If your heart wants it, don't back off. Order your food right away!)"

Another tweet reprises another oft-quoted line: "Naam sunke samjha kya?" In film, of course, Allu Arjun's character says (in the Hindi version): "Naam sunke phool samjha kya? Fire hoon."

As he gets set for shooting 'Pushpa: The Rule' after his Dubai vacation, Allu Arjun couldn't have asked for a better recall to the movie that has made him a pan-Indian star.

Sudhaa Chandran and Urvashi to return to TV



COLORS and Ekta Kapoor join forces again to bring the sixth installment of the most celebrated fantasy-fiction franchise on Indian television, 'Naagin'. This season shall witness the serpent queen 'Sarvashreshth Naagin' go far and beyond to fight the most powerful enemy in the history of the show.

'Sarvashreshth Naagin' will battle a glob-

al crisis that poses a threat to the survival of humanity. An ensemble cast comprising television's prominent faces including veteran actors Sudhaa Chandran and Urvashi Dholakia have teamed up with Ekta Kapoor to carry forward the show's legacy. While Sudhaa is making a comeback in the 'Naagin' franchise after Season 3 with the role of Seema (mother of the male protagonist), Urvashi is returning to TV after a hiatus of four years, having been given the role of

Urvashi, mother of the female protagonist. Produced by Balaji

Aakanksha to feature in web series 'Rangbaaz'

Aakanksha Singh has always chosen different and impactful roles whenever she has appeared on screen. Be it in the Hindi film industry or down South, her choices always shine out. And now the actress, who was seen in Badrinath Ki Dulhania, is all set to add another feather to her cap, as she is going to be a part of a political thriller, titled Rangbaaz.

According to a source close to the development, the actress is currently shooting in Lucknow for the same and this role is something very different from anything that Aakanksha has ever done on screen before, thus she is pretty excited about it.



"The story and her character is inspired from Hena Shahab, the wife of don-turned-politician Mohammad Shahabuddin, and the actress is leaving no stone unturned to nail her part," the source informs.

The part promises to show the actress in a new light and Aakanksha is pursuing any kind of information available so as to bring authenticity and integrity to her portrayal. "She is doing extensive research at her end by reading on everything there is about Hena and is also watching her interviews and seeing videos available on her. Aakanksha still has a few days of shoot left in Lucknow but she is really thrilled about

this revolutionary part," the source adds.

Not just this, but Aakanksha has some more interesting projects up ahead. She will be next seen as Ajay Devgn's wife in the actor's upcoming directorial Runway 34, which also features Amitabh Bachchan and Rakul Preet Singh. Recently, she also delved into the OTT space with the Telugu web series Parampara, which has been appreciated really well. There are some reports of her being a part of another big project, but there hasn't been any confirmation the same, but things look to be heading in a brighter direction for Aakanksha.



HOROSCOPE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 06

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Success ahoj! Go on, challenge your friends to a game; or your adversaries to a deadline. Today is your day, says Ganesha. Your image too gets a makeover due to your superhero antics! Enjoy it while it lasts, and before the wheels turn once again.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Not the best of days for you, haunted as you will be by feelings of insecurity. However, do not be in too much of a hurry to get in the mood to grieve, for the evening brings you pleasant times in the company of your soul mate, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

If you are in the mood to be alone, go ahead and indulge, says Ganesha. No need for friends and no need for music. Rush to the outdoors and mingle with nature. If you deal in money matters, says Ganesha, there may be some money coming your way.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

You will notice significant development in your business dealings, predicts Ganesha. Your progress may slow down in the afternoon. Later in the day, financial opportunities will knock at your door. You will also make worthwhile progress in relationship matters, predicts Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

A marathon brainstorming session with your colleagues, a scamper for meeting deadlines, and a demanding spouse will leave you quite stressed out by the end of the day. You, however, are an expert in dividing time between business, home and pleasure. The answer to your prayers is a late-night party, at least that's what you think.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

This is your big moment. You are going to deal with a huge amount of money - the kind of amount you would want to fill your swimming pool with and swim in it. Statutory warning issued by Ganesha: Don't dive in it, for you may hurt yourself as something or someone is likely to pull the plug, draining out most of the wealth that was amassed overnight.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Shooting off the charts is an understatement when it comes to your liveliness today, says Ganesha. Guess there is just something about today that puts a spring in your step and a smile on your face. But whatever it is, it's good for you. At work, you shall be able to bring about new and successful business strategies.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Partnership deals and money spinning will occupy most of your time as business and work top your priority list, predicts Ganesha. You will face stiff competition and animosity at various levels throughout the day. In the evening, your chances of winning are very bright in cut-throat business competitions.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Ganesha predicts a captivating day for you in terms of career. At work, you tend to do the tasks assigned to you with amazing clarity. Later in the day, whatever you say will charm a member of the opposite sex, which comes as a pleasant surprise to you.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Work may pile up today unless you work extremely hard to meet your targets, says Ganesha. In business, you may be disappointed with the results you achieve and that may be the cause of anxiety and worry. Support may come in the form of love and affection from a dear one in the evening.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

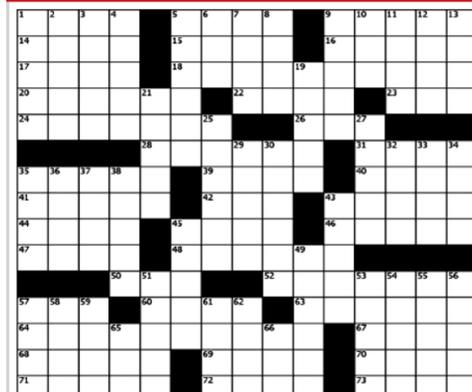
Spirituality may overwhelm every other state of your being today, feels Ganesha. Unavoidable expenses may also be on the cards where you must ensure you get the value for your money. Besides an odd shopping spree or some light socialising with friends and family, you are inclined to visit a holy shrine today in quest of spiritual peace, says Ganesha.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

It's your lucky day. You can look forward to an exciting time, both with your sweetheart and at work, says Ganesha. A few unexpected, but rather pleasant, events will keep you amused throughout, but there may be more surprises in store even as the day comes to an end.

CROSSWORD

205



ACROSS

- Sunbathe
- Pierce
- Leading
- Female singer
- Tattle
- Young insect
- Celebrity
- Perceived character
- Mother
- Fabric joint

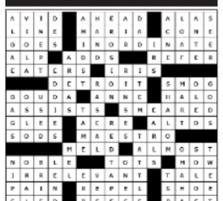
DOWN

- Sew temporarily
- Change
- Beetle Ringo
- Seoul's country
- Narrow waterway
- Golf peg
- Swiss peaks
- Melanchoy
- San Antonio shrine
- Sombrero, e.g.
- Historic canal
- Assert
- Great
- Bath powders
- Motionless
- Gambling hall
- Up to the time that
- Gambling game

- Initial bet
- "Bonnie and ..."
- Address word
- Comfort
- FBI employee (abbr.)
- Member of Congress
- Thurman of "Paycheck"
- Lampreys
- Redecorated
- Moderation
- Is indebted
- Zodiac sign
- Cows' calls
- Whip
- Bushy fence
- "Dear ..."
- House additions

- Map parts
- Well-ventilated
- Implored
- Additional
- Shadowbox
- Note
- District
- Actress ... Evans
- Locale
- Daisylike flower
- Religious dissent
- Barnyard fowl
- Sun-dried brick
- Drying cloth
- Laker Shaquille
- Relaxes
- Mormon State
- Simple
- Between
- Tibetan monk
- Snooty person
- Wooden pin
- Corn core

SOLUTION 204





India look for 'fresh ODI template' in Rohit-Dravid era

Ahmedabad, Feb 05 (PTI):

Match starts at 1.30 PM

Rohit Sharma's presence as the new leader, with a fresh template to arrest the familiar 'middle-order muddle', is exactly what the Indian team needs while ushering in a new era, which will begin with the ODI series against the West Indies, beginning here on Sunday.

After a rude reality check against a weak South African side in the away series, India are now back in familiar settings with a new ODI captain in Rohit, who will team up with illustrious Rahul Dravid and strive to get India back to winning ways.

The series-opener is historic 1000th ODI for India, who would like to begin their preparations for the 2023 World Cup after fail-

ing to win the coveted trophy in 2015 and 2019, and the team will indeed look at a paradigm shift in strategy.

The 'Rohit-Dravid' duo over the course of the next few months will underline the 'Men in Blue's' philosophy in the 50-over format after it became clear that some rejigging is needed as a part of course correction.

Thus, the series beginning Sunday would be the perfect platform to focus on setting their struggling middle-order right.

Firstly, skipper Rohit, one of the finest white-ball exponents, will have to lead from the front.

With KL Rahul unavailable in the first game, and other specialist openers Shikhar Dhawan and

Ruturaj Gaikwad both testing COVID-19 positive, it is in all likelihood that Mayank Agarwal, who was added to the squad, would open with Rohit.

However whether Agarwal will be straight be thrown into a match without training session due to quarantine is another question, specially when Ishan Kishan is also in the mix. Rohit on his day can take any attack to cleaners and the West Indies', rather inexperienced one, would be no exception and ditto for Mayank.

In the series against South Africa, save Rishabh Pant's knock in the second game, the middle-order crumbled on all the three occasions and the need of the hour is to have impactful players in it.

With Shreyas Iyer not available for the series,

there is a chance for aggressive Suryakumar Yadav and equally formidable Deepak Hooda, who has had a decent outing in the last Vijay Hazare Trophy, to impress the national selectors.

Apart from two, a lot will depend on how Virat Kohli performs. India had tried rookie Venkatesh Iyer in an unfamiliar middle-order position in South Africa, but the experiment didn't work.

In terms of bowling, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, is back to the ODI squad, and would most probably be in the playing XI along with his seasoned partner Yuzvendra Chahal.

The 27-year-old Kuldeep played his last ODI against Sri Lanka in July 2021, and recently recovered after

undergoing a surgery. But the team management has included young Jodhpur-born googly bowler Ravi Bishnoi in the squad, and it would be interesting to see if he gets a game right away.

In the absence of key pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, the bowling unit is expected to be led by Palghar Express' Shardul Thakur, who shone in the Johannesburg Test against South Africa.

It is the best chance for Thakur, whose prowess with the bat was on display in the ODI series against the Proteas, to cement his place in the side.

Also, along with him, the series provides a chance for young bowlers like Mohammed Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Prasad Krishna and Avesh Khan

to step up and stake a permanent claim with two years left for the World Cup. Meanwhile, West Indies would come into the context after their confidence boosting T20 series win over England, although the format is entirely different.

The team from the Caribbean possess a power-hitter Nicholas Pooran, who can turn the game on its head. He would also look to impress the franchisees before the IPL auction.

He would however need support from others. Also, the role of skipper Kieron Pollard and experienced all-rounder Jason Holder could be the difference on a day.

Pollard and his men would be more than keen to spoil India's party in their marquee clash.

Individuals need role clarity but will carry on from where Virat had left: Rohit

Ahmedabad, Feb 05 (PTI):

India captain Rohit Sharma on Saturday admitted that some individuals in the team needed "role clarity" but he would prefer carrying on from where his predecessor Virat Kohli had left rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.

In his first interaction with media as full-time ODI skipper, Rohit refrained from entertaining any questions on his likely elevation as Test captain, Kuldeep Yadav's gradual integration into system post surgery and need to manage the workload properly.

"It is always important that everyone comes together and plays that role that has been given to them. What is important



for us, moving forward is the role clarity of certain individuals in the squad," Rohit said at a virtual press conference ahead of the first ODI against West Indies. The skipper said that he would communicate with the individuals concerned.

"I think, if we can, you know, put that in place and talk to the individual about it, I think, we can get what we want from different individuals at different points in time of need," he added. As a successful franchise skipper and also one hasn't done badly whenever he has led the team in Kohli's absence in earlier times, Rohit believes that a 0-3 loss against South Africa is an aberration and there is no need to press the panic button.

Melbourne, Feb 05 (AP):

Faced with months of reported complaints by senior players over his rigid coaching style and an apparently uncompromising Cricket Australia board of directors, Justin Langer resigned as coach of the Australian men's cricket team on Saturday.

The announcement was made in a statement from Langer's management company DSEG while Langer was flying from Melbourne to his hometown of Perth.

"DSEG confirms that our client Justin Langer has this morning tendered his resignation as coach of the Australian men's cricket team, the statement said. "The resignation follows a meeting



with Cricket Australia last evening. The resignation is effective immediately."

After weeks of scrutiny about whether he would have his four-year contract extended beyond June, the Cricket Australia board met on Friday to discuss the 51-year-old West Australian's future.

Cricket Australia said in a statement that Langer

was offered a short-term extension to his current contract, which sadly he has opted not to accept.

It also said assistant coach Andrew McDonald had been appointed interim head coach. Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who is close friends with Langer they share the same agent told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio that he believes Langer was pushed out of the job and it's a really sad day as far as Australian cricket is concerned," adding that the situation was embarrassing. Reports in Australian media over the past several months said Langer's intense coaching style had led to complaints from Australia's senior players to CA executives.

Justin Langer quits as Australian men's cricket coach

Statistical Highlights of India's Journey till 1000th ODI

Ahmedabad, Feb 05 (PTI):

Hosts India will play their 1000th ODI at the picturesque Narendra Modi stadium when they take on the West Indies in the lung opener of the three-match series on Sunday. India have so far played 999 ODIs and have recorded 518 victories. They have suffered 431 defeats, while nine matches have ended in ties. 41 matches had no result.

Some facts:

- **Highest total:** 418/5 in 50 overs vs WI at Indore on December 8, 2011
- **Lowest total:** 54 all out in 26.3 overs vs SL at Sharjah on October 29, 2000.
- **Largest victory:** by 257 runs vs Bermuda at Port of Spain on March 19, 2007
- **Smallest victory:** by 1 run vs NZ at Wellington on March 6, 1990
- **by 1 run vs SL at Colombo (RPS) on July 25, 1993.**
- **by 1 run vs SA at Jaipur on February 21, 2010.**
- **by 1 run vs SA at Johannesburg on January 15, 2011.**

Individual Scores

- Most matches - Sachin Tendulkar - 463
- Most runs Sachin Tendulkar 18,426 runs
- Highest Individual score Rohit Sharma 264 vs SL at Kolkata on Nov 13, 2014
- Most Hundreds Sachin Tendulkar 49
- Most fifties Sachin Tendulkar 96
- Most ducks (zeros) Sachin Tendulkar 20
- Most runs in a series Sachin Tendulkar 673 2003 WC in SA
- Highest SR Zaheer Khan 290.0 versus Zimbabwe at Jodhpur on December 8, 2000
- Most wickets Anil Kumble 334 wickets
- Best bowling figures Stuart Binny 6/4 vs Ban at Mirpur on June 17, 2014
- Most wickets in a series Zaheer Khan 21 wickets World Cup 2011
- Most runs conceded: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1/106 vs SA in Mumbai on Oct 25, 2015
- Most dismissals by a WK MS Dhoni 438 (318 catches, 120 stumpings)
- Most dismissals by a WK in match MS Dhoni 6 (5 catches, 1 stumping) versus England at Leeds on September 2, 2007
- Most dismissals in a series by a WK MS Dhoni 21 (19 catches, 2 stumpings) Commonwealth Bank Series (Australia, India, Sri Lanka in Australia) in 2007/08
- Most catches M Azharuddin 156 catches
- Most catches in a series VVS Laxman - 12 VB Series (Australia, India, Zimbabwe) 2003/04
- Highest partnership by wicket 1st 258 Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly versus Kenya at Paarl (South Africa) on October 24, 2001
- 2nd 331 Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid versus New Zealand at Hyderabad (Deccan) on November 8, 1999
- 3rd 237* - Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar versus Kenya at Bristol on May 23, 1999

List of captains:

- M Azharuddin 1990-1999 174 matches 90 won, 76 lost, 2 tied and 6 NR
- Sachin Tendulkar 1996-2000 73 matches 23 won, 43 lost, 1 tied, 6 NR
- Ajay Jadeja 1998-1999 13 matches 8 won, 5 lost
- Sourav Ganguly 1999-2005 146 matches 76 won, 65 lost, 5 no result
- Rahul Dravid 2000-2007 79 matches 42 won, 33 lost, 4 no result
- Anil Kumble 2002-2002 1 match, 1 won
- Virender Sehwag 2003-2012 12 matches, 7 won, 5 lost
- MS Dhoni 2007-2018 200 matches 110 won, 74 lost, 5 tied, 11 NR
- Suresh Raina 2010-2014 12 matches 6 won, 5 lost, 1 NR
- Gautam Gambhir 2010-2011 6 matches 6 won
- Virat Kohli 2013-2021 95 matches 65 won, 27 lost, 1 tied, 2 NR
- Ajinkya Rahane 2015-2015 3 matches 3 won
- Rohit Sharma 2017-2019 10 matches 8 won, 2 lost
- Shikhar Dhawan 2021-2021 3 matches, 2 won and 1 lost
- KL Rahul 2022-2022 3 matches - 3 lost.

ICC U-19 World Cup: Australia claim 3rd place beating Afghanistan

Osbourn (Antigua), Feb 05 (PTI):

A fine all-round performance from Nivethan Radhakrishnan fired Australia to third place in the ICC Under 19 World Cup with a two-wicket win over Afghanistan.

The ambidextrous all-rounder took three for 31 to limit Afghanistan to 201 all out batting first, before notching a half-century in the chase. Australia were made to sweat but eventually snuck home with five balls to spare.

Afghanistan, hoping to better their previous best result in this tournament fourth in 2018, won the toss and elected to bat at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua and Barbuda. However two early wickets for William Salzmann



(3-43), removing Nangeyalia Kharote and Allah Noor, reduced Afghanistan to 15 for two. Mohammad Ishaq (34) and skipper Suliman Shafi (37) started to rebuild,

adding 70 before the former was run out by Salzmann, the latter falling three balls later to Radhakrishnan. Ijaz Ahmad Ahmadzai took up the baton, making 81 as wickets continued to

tumble around him, before becoming the ninth man to fall as Salzmann's final victim with the score on 201. Skipper Cooper Connolly (2-30) finished off the innings with his second

wicket in the final over, leaving Australia with a manageable chase as they were set 202 to win.

Campbell Kellaway (51) and Teague Wyllie (13) put on a half-century stand for the first wicket before the latter was bowled by Nangeyalia to bring Radhakrishnan to the crease. He and Kellaway added another 60 before a little wobble as Noor Ahmad removed both Kellaway and Connolly in quick succession. Isaac Higgins joined Radhakrishnan, scoring 11 in a 40-run partnership, but when both were dismissed with 35 still required, a few nerves started to appear.

Lachlan Shaw (13) and Corey Miller (13) then added 26 to take Australia to the brink before three

ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022 placings

- 3 - Australia
- 4 - Afghanistan
- 5 - Pakistan
- 6 - Sri Lanka
- 7 - South Africa
- 8 - Bangladesh
- 9 United Arab Emirates
- 10 Ireland
- 11 West Indies
- 12 Zimbabwe
- 13 Uganda
- 14 Scotland
- 15 Canada
- 16 PNG.

quick wickets gave Afghanistan hope. They took it to the final over, but Joshua Garner (four not out) held his nerve to see Australia home.

SCBA REQUESTS CJI

'Resume full physical hearing in SC'

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Saturday requested Chief Justice of India N V Ramanathas that physical hearings in the apex court be reassumed to the pre-pandemic level as the COVID-19 situation is in control and stressed that 'open court hearing' is both the 'convention and constitutional requirement'. In a letter addressed to the CJI, SCBA president Vikas Singh said the positivity rate in the national capital has come down to below four per cent and the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has decided to reopen schools, colleges and gyms here with effect from February 7.

The apex court is presently hearing matters virtually after the number

of COVID-19 cases started rising in December last year due to the Omicron variant of the virus.

The letter said due to the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the apex court had started hearing matters virtually and from November 9 last year, it had commenced physical hearing on three days - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - in a week.

The hearing in open court is both the convention and a constitutional requirement in the Supreme Court. It is, therefore, requested that the physical hearing in Supreme Court be resumed forthwith as it was pre-pandemic, said the letter, a copy of which has also been sent to the five senior-most judges of the top court.

It said pandemic in the country has been very

much in control in the last two weeks and in Delhi and the positivity rate has come down to 3.85 percent as on date. The letter said that offices are now allowed to function with 100 percent capacity in Delhi and school for nursery to class 8th will reopen from February 14.

In these circumstances, there is no justification to not open the Supreme Court for full physical hearing on all five days forthwith, it said. The SCBA president has said in the letter that as has been demonstrated in the earlier phase of physical hearing in the apex court in November and December 2021, the lawyers will continue wearing masks and abide by the COVID protocol as long as the same is in place.

Singh has also referred

to his January 6 letter addressed to the CJI in which he had raised concerns over the non-consideration of several urgent pending issues of the bar.

The letter said on January 18, a meeting was convened between the five senior-most judges of the apex court and the SCBA's executive committee (EC) to discuss the issue of muting or unmuting lawyers during a virtual hearing. It said other issues of the bar, as mentioned in the previous letter, were kept in abeyance with an assurance that those issues would be taken up immediately when the situation would become better. Singh said that based on the assurance, the unanimous decision of the SCBA EC to hold a candle march raising grievances of the bar was kept in abeyance.

BASANT PANCHAMI CELEBRATIONS

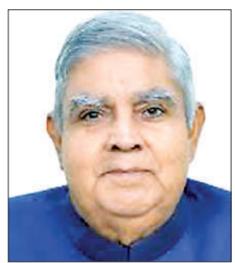


School teachers pose for photos while wearing yellow color dresses and holding kites on the occasion of Basant Panchmi in Patiala, Saturday.

'WB govt proposal for appointment of information commissioners flawed'

Kolkata, Feb 05 (PTI):

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said the state government's recommendation for appointment of former director general of police Virendra and ex-additional chief secretary Naveen Prakash as information commissioners is "flawed". The governor also attached with his tweet a letter he had written on December 6 noting that people from different walks of life had responded to the advertisement for appointment to the post of state Information Commissioner of West Bengal Information Commission. "Govt seeks appointment of Ex DGP Virendra now Chairman WB Police



Jagdeep Dhankhar

Recruitment Board & Ex ACS Naveen Prakash now Pr Adv (Infrastructure) as Information Commissioners. Recommendation flawed in view of Supreme Court directives. Response sought on Dec 6 awaited," he tweeted. In the letter that he had earlier written to the gov-

ernment, Dhankhar had said that apart from the claims that the respective bio-data of the two fulfil the criteria for appointment to the post, the minutes (of state government communication) do not refer to any other aspect.

"Neither the minutes nor the recommendations can be reckoned in conformity of the binding directives of the Honourable Supreme Court on the point," he wrote in the letter. Dhankhar, who had continued run-ins with the government on various issues, including a bill on bifurcation of Howrah Municipal Corporation to form Bally Municipality, reiterated on the microblogging site that no file was pending at his end.

RSS defamation case

Trial against Rahul Gandhi to begin from Feb 10

Thane, Feb 05 (PTI):

A court at Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday set February 10 as the date of commencement of day-to-day trial in the defamation case filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by an activist of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The court was scheduled to begin the trial in the case from today. But counsel for the complainant requested the court to postpone it saying his client was out of town for personal reasons.

In his order, civil court judge and judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) at

Bhiwandi, J V Paliwal, fixed February 10 as the date of commencement of trial. Advocate Prabodh Jaywant, counsel for RSS activist Rajesh Kunte, who is the complainant in the case, submitted in the court that since his client was out of town for personal reasons, trial be postponed.

Rahul Gandhi's counsel, advocate Narayan Iyer, told the court that his client was busy with the Assembly elections in Goa, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. He, however, said the court can nevertheless go ahead with the proceedings. After hearing both the sides, the court postponed the trial.

'Mumbai's traffic congestion breaks marriages'

Mumbai, Feb 05 (PTI):

Traffic jams deny 'family time' to people and cause three per cent of divorces in Mumbai, former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta Fadnavis has claimed. The remark drew ridicule from the Shiv Sena, which controls the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Amruta Fadnavis made the comment after attending a function organised by a local BJP unit on Friday. She was asked by reporters about the condition of roads in the city.

"...I am saying this as a common citizen because I see potholes and traffic jams daily. Do you know



Amruta Fadnavis

how many divorces are taking place because of it in Mumbai? Three per cent," she said.

"People can not find time for their families because of traffic issues, Fadnavis, a banker by profession, added.

Reacting to the remark, Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted, Best (ill)logic of the day award goes to the lady who claims 3 per cent Mumbaikars are divorcing due to traffic on roads. Please take a holiday break rather than having a mind on brake.

Bengaluru families please avoid reading this, can prove fatal for your marriages," Chaturvedi added. Mumbai mayor Kishori Pednekar said that "people associated with BJP are making comments like this." "People are fed up with such comments," she said. Civic polls will be held in Mumbai this year.

IT'S PLAYTIME



Children play with ice after heavy winter stone ice rainfall, in Guwahati, Saturday.

MAJOR SUCCESS

Assam tea seller clears NEET in first attempt

● Set to take admission in AIIMS-Delhi

Barpeta (Assam), Feb 05 (PTI):

It was no mean task juggling studies and serving tea to customers at the shop run by his mother. Rahul Das (24), however, took the challenges in his stride and managed to do both. His hard work has finally paid off as the tea seller from Assam's Bajali district secured a seat at AIIMS-Delhi, having cleared NEET exam in the first attempt.

The journey wasn't an easy one. Das and his brother were raised by their mother, who was left alone to fend for herself and two sons by her husband some 11 years ago. Poverty forced Das to quit his studies after Class 12, but he did not give up on

the dream to become a doctor. Das said he would find time to study in between serving customers at his mother's shop in Patacharkuchi Chowk area of the district. "I have seen my mother toil hard for us. We couldn't afford a helper at the shop. Since school, I made it a point to help her in some way or the other... I made tea and sold it, too. And as and when it was possible, I would sit down to study at the shop," he explained.

In 2015, he had cleared the higher secondary examination, and left studies for want of money. However, his zeal for higher education prompted Das to join the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), two years later, to pursue a diploma in plastic engineering. Das passed with a distinction (85 per

cent marks) after three years, and started work at a multi-national company in Guwahati as a 'quality engineer' in October 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There was no job satisfaction at all... I always wanted to be a doctor. One of my cousins is a dental surgeon and he happened to be my inspiration. I decided to leave my job and begin preparations for NEET with whatever resources were available online as I had no money to buy books," he told PTI as customers lined up outside his shop to have a cup of piping hot tea. Das, who has a burn injury on one of his hands, candidly said that he bagged the 12,068th position in NEET, but his Scheduled Caste (SC) and Person with Disabilities (PWD) certificates helped him get through AIIMS.



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'Cong focussed on providing employment'

Aligarh, Feb 05 (PTI):

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said her party does not talk of eliminating haughtiness of people but for providing opportunities for their employment.

The Congress leader made the remark days after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during an election campaign in a western Uttar Pradesh area, said that the khoon ki garri (haughtiness) of Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal leaders will end after the state assembly results come in. While talking to a



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

man in Aligarh, Priyanka Gandhi quipped, People say someone has been talking of garmi nikalne ki charbi nikalne ki (eliminating haughtiness). But we (in Congress) are talking of 'bharti' (employment). A number of

youths who are standing here are jobless. Around 12 lakh posts are lying vacant in the government," she added. The UP Congress later in a tweet in Hindi, said, "This time vote for those who start 'bharti' (recruitments/employment) and reject 'charbi nikaalne wale' and 'garmi nikaalne wale' (people professing to end haughtiness, arrogance).

Priyanka Gandhi was in Aligarh to campaign for the party candidates in Iglas and Khair assembly segments of the district. The Congress general secretary also undertook door-to-door contact programmes in Aligarh.

Bengal artist bags top CIMA Award

Kolkata, Feb 05 (PTI):

West Bengal artist Suman Chandra was on Saturday named the winner of the 2022 CIMA Award for his coal dust, brick dust, charcoal, acrylic, and pen and ink on canvas work titled 'Black Grave 2'. The first runner-up award went to Sonal Varshneya (Uttar Pradesh) for her work 'Kissa Goi' and the second runner-up to Akshay Maiti (West Bengal) for his work on terracotta Structural Anatomy.

Chandra received Rs 5 lakh, a trophy, and a solo show while Varshneya and Maiti were given Rs 3 lakh and Rs 2 lakh respectively, along with a trophy each. The awards were

presented by the Centre of International Modern Art (CIMA) in collaboration with Art & Heritage Foundation at a special event held here.

"The art in CIMA Awards 2022 comes from the heart and soul of our country. They express the voices of the young generation of India and are all genuine, powerful and touch your heart and mind and that is what makes this show so exciting," said CIMA director Rakhi Sarkar. Two special jury awards were given to Asis Kumar Mahakhud (Telangana) and Ravi Morya (Delhi). Both received Rs 1 lakh and a trophy each.

Special mention awards (Rs 50,000 and a trophy

each) were given to Sayantan Samanta and Anirban Saha (both from West Bengal), and four merit awards of Rs 25,000 and a trophy each were presented to Jaladhar Naskar (West Bengal), Joydeep Bhattacharjee (Tripura), Satyaranjan Das (Odisha), and Subhankar Bag (Karnataka).

The director's choice awards of Rs 25,000 each went to Karnataka's Yogeesh P Naik and Shivi Yadav (Uttar Pradesh).

The 2022 CIMA Awards honoured veteran modernist Arpita Singh for her contribution to Indian art and Tasneem Zakaria Mehta for her contribution to the restoration and rejuvenation of the Dr

Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai. As part of the CIMA Awards show, the entire collection will be on display at two venues in Kolkata - CIMA Gallery and GEM Cinema till February 27.

For the fourth edition of the awards this year, 183 artworks from across the country were shortlisted for the final. The list of 13 winners and their works was selected by the final jury comprising R M Palaniappan, Manu Parekh, N N Rimzon, Astrid Wege, Kunal Basu, Shreyasi Chatterjee, Paresh Maiti, and Kingshuk Sarkar. Launched in 2014-2015, the CIMA Awards recognise and honour excellence in the visual arts.



BRIEF



Members of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh take out a march on the occasion of the foundation day of Banaras Hindu University, in Varanasi, Saturday.

Hijab row

Mangaluru: The hijab controversy in Udipi district of Karnataka on Saturday spilled into the streets with a group of students of two junior colleges at Kundapur taking out a procession in the town wearing saffron shawls demanding ban on headscarves on the campuses. Hindu boy students of Kundapur junior college and R N Shetty college who staged the protest, said they will continue to wear the shawls if Muslim girl students are allowed to wear hijabs.

Badrinath portals

New Tehri: The sacred portals of Badrinath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district will be opened at 6.15 am on May 8, priests here announced on Saturday. Dedicated to the Hindu God Vishnu, the Himalayan temple is closed every year at the onset of winter and reopened at the start of summer. It remains snow-bound throughout winter.

Mishap

Gopeshwar: Three persons were killed when the car in which they were travelling fell into a deep gorge in Chamoli district, authorities here said on Saturday. The vehicle was on its way to Ghuni from Ramni village Friday night when it fell into the gorge near Ghat area, District Disaster Management officer NK Joshi said. The bodies were recovered on Saturday morning.

Earthquake

Srinagar: A 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, but there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said. The epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 9.45 am, was at the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. Strong tremors were felt in Jammu and Kashmir, they said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to enquire about the situation in the union territory following the earthquake.

Arrested

Jaipur: Two alleged drug smugglers were arrested on Saturday in Rajasthan's Churu district with 425 kg of a narcotic substance with an estimated market price of Rs 20 lakh, police said Saturday. The duo was carrying 'doda chura' (opium produce) in a truck under the guise of banana from Madhya Pradesh, heading to Haryana to deliver the consignment, they said.

Weather
High 28 Low 11

India doesn't have a PM but a king: Rahul

Alleges Modi left farmers on roads amid Covid

Kichcha (U'khand), Feb 05 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of leaving protesting farmers on roads for a year amid the pandemic and alleged India now has a king who believes people should keep quiet when he makes a decision.

Addressing farmers at a rally here, Gandhi said the Congress intends to provide a government that works in partnership with farmers, the youths and the poor.

"If a prime minister does not work for all he cannot be a prime minister. By that measure, Narendra Modi is not a prime minister," he told



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaks during the Uttarakhandi Swabhiman Rally ahead of the Uttarakhand Assembly elections, in Haridwar, Saturday.

the 'Uttarakhandi Kisan Swabhiman Samvad' rally here. Citing the example of the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh, he said farmers approached it for loan waivers and that was done within 10 days. A loan waiver worth Rs 70,000 crore was given to them. "It was not a dole or

a free gift. We did it because you work 24 hours for the country," Gandhi said. "The Congress never shut its doors on farmers... We want to work in partnership with farmers, the poor, labourers so that every section feels it is their government," the former Congress chief said.

He accused Modi of leaving the farmers on the road amid Covid and cold for a year and not inviting them to listen to their grievances. "India does not have a prime minister today. It has a king who believes that when the king takes a decision everyone else should keep quiet," Gandhi alleged.

Referring to the wealth gap in the society, the Congress leader spoke about "two Indias" with such income disparity which is "not seen anywhere else". "We have one India of rich industrialists, five-star hotels and Mercedes cars and another India of the poor and the unemployed where inflation is rising. A select group of around 100 people have as much wealth as 40 per cent of India's population. Such income disparity is not seen anywhere else," he said.

Centre to purchase 5 cr doses of Corbevax Covid vaccine

Each costing Rs 145 sans tax

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTI):

The Centre has placed a purchase order with Biological E for five crore doses of Covid vaccine Corbevax each costing Rs 145 excluding taxes, official sources said on Saturday.

The government is yet to decide on which segment of beneficiaries this new vaccine would be administered.

However, according to sources, discussions are underway in technical groups and in the Health Ministry's immunisation

division about expanding the scope of the precaution doses which are currently being given to healthcare and frontline workers, and comorbid senior citizens.

The HLL Lifecare Limited, a public sector undertaking, has issued the supply order of Corbevax to Biological E in January-end on behalf of the Union Health Ministry.

According to the order, the Hyderabad-based company is expected to provide the supplies in February.

"The cost implication of five crore doses of Corbevax at the rate of Rs 145 per dose plus GST as

applicable come to Rs 725 plus GST as applicable.

"In this regard, it is also stated that Rs 1,500 crore has been released as advance vide sanction order dated June 2, 2021, to HLL Lifecare Limited for procurement of Corbevax from Biological E Limited," the order stated.

The government has told Parliament that any decision on expanding the list of eligible beneficiaries for precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination of children below 15 years will be in accordance with the recommendations of the NTAGI based on a review of the available scientific evidence.

MATTER OF CONCERN

Lata Mangeshkar's health deteriorates, under aggressive therapy'



Mumbai, Feb 05 (PTI):

Singing legend Lata Mangeshkar is back on the ventilator after her health deteriorated and is undergoing "aggressive therapy", a doctor treating her said on Saturday.

The 92-year-old singer tested positive for Covid with mild symptoms and

was admitted on January 8 to Breach Candy Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) where she is being treated by Dr Pratit Samdani and his team of doctors. "Lata Mangeshkar didi is in Breach Candy Hospital, in the ICU.

She continues to be under aggressive therapy and is tolerating the procedures well at this moment," Samdani told reporters outside the south Mumbai hospital. Earlier in the day, he said Mangeshkar's health had worsened. "She is not doing well. She continues to be in the ICU under treatment and has been put on ventilator again," Samdani told PTI.

'China continues to occupy 38,000 sq km of Indian territory'

New Delhi, Feb 05:

China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Union Territory of Ladakh for the last six decades, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan informed Lok Sabha on Friday.

Further, under the so-called China-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' signed in 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq km of Indian territory in Shaksgam Valley from areas illegally occupied by Pakistan in Union Territory of Ladakh to



V Muraleedharan

China, the minister said in a written reply to a question. Replying to a question of Bahujan Samaj Party MP Shyam Yadav Singh Muraleedharan said,

'Government of India has never recognised the so-called China-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963 and has consistently maintained that it is illegal and invalid.'

The fact that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times," the MoS said.

After the 1962 conflict, both China and Pakistan saw an opportunity to strengthen and develop their relations to put strategic pressure on India.

Jammu, Feb 05 (PTI):

As Pakistan observed 'Kashmir solidarity day' on Saturday, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said India cannot be intimidated by new experimentation being done by our hostile neighbor by preparing toolkits to garner support across the globe.

He said if there is any pending issue between Pakistan and India it is that part of Jammu and Kashmir which continues to be under the illegal occupation of the neighbouring country.

Talking to reporters at the BJP headquarters here, the minister of state in the

Cong MLA's husband surrenders before cops

Rajnandgaon, Feb 05:

The husband of a Congress MLA in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district was arrested on Saturday after he surrendered before the police in an SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities case for allegedly threatening a truck driver, an official said.

Chandu Sahu, the husband of Khujji MLA Chhanni Sahu, was arrested after he turned himself in before the police at the office of Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police here this afternoon, the senior official said.

He was produced in a local court this evening which sent him to judicial custody, he added.

Last December 8, an FIR was registered against Chandu Sahu under sections 294 (obscene acts) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal

ATROCITY CASE

Cong MLA's husband surrenders before cops

What FIR states

Last December 8, an FIR was registered against Chandu Sahu under sections 294 (obscene acts) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with Chhuriya police station on the complaint of the driver, Beersingh Uikey, he said. As per the FIR, Chandu Sahu threatened Uikey of being involved in sand mining, despite the driver possessing a royalty permit for mineral transportation, when the latter's mini truck stopped by the roadside.

Code (IPC) and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with Chhuriya police station on the complaint of the driver, Beersingh

Uikey, he said.

As per the FIR, Chandu Sahu threatened Uikey of being involved in sand mining, despite the driver possessing a royalty permit for mineral transportation, when the latter's mini truck stopped by the roadside.

Chandu Sahu had said that the case was registered against him by the driver at the behest of the sand mafia.

Before her husband turned himself in before police, the MLA told reporters that he was being implicated in a false case as part of a political conspiracy hatched by mining mafias and anti-social elements. Meanwhile, the MLA also surrendered police personnel deputed for her security.

"If there is no respect for a public representative then why this drama of providing security?" she questioned.

'Not to be concerned by new experimentation being done by Pak'



Jitendra Singh

Prime Minister's Office said there is nothing to feel perturbed about it (Pakistan observing Kashmir solidarity day). We are well equipped to face any challenge.

He was responding to a

question about 'Kashmir solidarity day' being observed in Pakistan on February 5 since 1990 and the toolkits' reportedly dispatched by Islamabad this year to different embassies across the globe to garner support for its Kashmir policy.

Right from the midnight of partition in 1947, Pakistan could not reconcile with the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India and therefore they are trying all tricks in their book. They tried three wars, are trying infiltration, and the thousand wounds theory by causing insurgency.

Now they are using mod-

ern toolkits and the available new technology. But India is much more responsive and dynamic both as a nation and a state not to be intimidated by all these new experiments being done by our hostile neighbor, the minister said.

He said it is the recognised position by India's Parliament which unanimously passed a resolution in 1994, when BJP was not in power, that states if at all there is an issue pending between India and Pakistan that is of retrieving that part of Jammu and Kashmir which continues to be under illegal occupation of Pakistan even after 75 years.

PLAYING WITH COLOURS



Devotees play with colours as the 40-day long Holi festival starts at the Sri Bankey Bihari temple, on the occasion of Vasant Panchami, at Vrindavan in Mathura, Saturday.

India adds over 1.27 lakh fresh Covid cases

More than 1K deaths

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTI):

India on Saturday recorded 1,27,952 fresh coronavirus cases that took its infection tally to 4,20,80,664, while the number of active cases declined further to 13,31,648, according to Union health ministry data. The death toll climbed to 5,01,114 with 1,059 more fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. The active cases comprise 3.16 per cent of the total infections in the country, the ministry said. A reduction of 1,03,921 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The national

COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 95.64 per cent, the ministry said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 7.98 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 11.21 per cent, it said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,02,47,902. The case fatality rate stands at 1.19 per cent, it added. So far, the cumulative doses administered in the country under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive have exceeded 168.98 crore. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

PM inaugurates 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad

Hails 11th century saint's message of equality of all

Hyderabad, Feb 05:

PM Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the 216-feet tall "Statue of Equality" commemorating the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya in Hyderabad. Saint Sri Ramanujacharya is known for promoting the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed.

"Statue of Equality will encourage youth. This statue of Ramanujacharya ji is a symbol of his knowledge,



detachment, and ideals," PM Modi said. The Statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc and is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting position, in the world. It is

mounted on a 54-feet high base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi', has floors devoted for a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing many works of Sri

Ramanujacharya. The statue has been conceptualised by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram. During the programme, 3D Presentation Mapping on the life journey and teaching of Sri Ramanujacharya will also be showcased.

Prime Minister will also visit the identical recreations of 108 Divya Desams (ornately carved temples) that surround the Statue of Equality. Sri Ramanujacharya worked tirelessly for the upliftment of people with the spirit of every human being equal regardless of nationality, gender, race, caste or creed.

Over 1000 disability certificates forged

Chandra Sekhar Sharma

Kawardha, Feb 05: Corruption against issuing of more than 1000 disability certificates by an unauthorized doctor have come to light here in the district hospital. The reason behind is cited as irregularity in the information of the Physical Efficiency and Disability Certificate Committee is raising question marks.

According to information written by Dr Aditya Chandel of the health department after he was reprimanded for issuing the certificates, in taking the matter into controversy.

In the message circulated through social media he has concluded that there is no medical board formed to claim the disability percentage of the patients and he was involved in making over 1000 disability certificates

under Samaj Kalyan Vibhag and has also opined to constitute medical board with at least 2 orthopedic specialists to open the case.

The Disabled and Physical Efficiency Certificate Committee constituted on January 1, 2022, saw many errors after which under the revised order issued on 22 January 2022, MD Medicine Specialist Dr. Walter was suddenly dropped from the Physical Fitness Committee, which was against rules as it is mandatory to keep a specialist of Medicine in the disability Committee, as persons affected by blood related disorders and chronic nervous conditions are screened by specialist in the core Committee. The removal of a specialist by bypassing the qualifications a question mark arises on the legitimacy of the committee.

**Reconstituted Medical Board formed on Jan 22****Medical Board formed on January 01.****A copy of disability certificate which was prepared before the constitution of medical board.**

What official says

"Disability certificate cannot be made without becoming a member of the Medical Board or without being authorized. It is mandatory to have a medicine specialist in the Physical Efficiency Certificate Committee. Information regarding issuing of fake disability certificate has been received and guidelines are being sought by bringing the matter to the notice of the higher authorities for action."

- Dr. S. K. Mandal CMHO Kabirdham

Face of administrative system changing fast

Central Chronicle News

Mainpur, Feb 04: The picture of the administrative system of Gariaband district has started changing, as public welfare schemes and administration are reaching the public directly, and the work of review at the ground level is also taking shape.

Under Namrata Gandhi, the newly posted woman IAS in the district, and superintendent of police public hearings have started, where, on the one hand, the departmental staff has become fine after the district administration has issued orders for smooth operation of the schemes.

On the other hand, now the law system is strong in the district, successful efforts are on to rein in every illegal work and sim-



plying the administrative system, the doors of administration have been opened to the public with transparency. Along with this, the district administration has now appointed Collector and Superintendent of Police, District Panchayat CEO to test the ground reality.

The Collector and Superintendent of Police, District Panchayat CEO reached Devbhog and surprised the people by putting up a Jan Choupal, sitting on the ground. After Nistaguda, the next choupal was set up in the well-known kidney suffering village Supebeda.

Road incomplete even after an year of CM's announcement

**Central Chronicle News**

Konta/Sukma, Feb 05: It has been almost seven decades since the country became independent, but only 2 km from Sukma district headquarters. The village panchayat is far away from Goganla, where even today Goganla residents and school children are longing for a pucca road.

Even today, there is an axis of the paved road. The great thing is that in the year 2000, during the Atal government, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched for the construction of roads in rural areas. But many works have been done under this scheme in the district for 22 years, it is surprising that even a pucca road could not reach near the district.

On 02 February 2021, the Chief Minister wanted to meet the Chief Minister to apprise him of the basic problem of Divyang Tularam Nag and Goganla. In Gogla, along with school children, the villagers also have to face a lot of trouble in commuting. Nothing could be done about the situation. Start the work immediately without delay, otherwise Gogla road will be closed.

Disposal of bio medical waste should be as per the prescribed provisions: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Feb 05: Under the chairmanship of District Collector Kuldeep Sharma, a meeting of the District Task Force Committee was held here in the Manthan meeting room. National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi has directed the formation of District Task Force and coordination regarding the disposal of solid waste and public awareness program and in compliance of which the meeting of the District Task Force Committee was held today under the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.

While directing all the urban bodies regarding the banned plastic carry bags included in the agenda of the meeting, the



Collector said that all the urban body officers should ban plastic carry bags under their area and ensure effective action on the use of bags. He said that as an alternative, people should be encouraged to use bags made of cloth. Giving information on the action plan in rural areas, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Kunal Dudawat said that

during the Gram Sabha, it is being encouraged to make plastic-free Gram Panchayat. Along with this, he informed that 2 plastic waste management units are approved in the district, whose DPRs are under process. Collector Sharma said that there is a need to pay special attention to the village panchayats related to tourist

places, so that the natural beauty along with cleanliness remains at the tourist places. In the meeting, the Collector also has given strict instructions to all the government and private medical centers to dispose of bio medical waste as per the prescribed provisions. In the meeting, the Chief Medical and Health

Officer informed that at present medical waste is being disposed of in the district hospital through soak pits and deep pits. The Collector also took information from CMO Baikunthpur about the beautification of Ghari Chowk and Jail Pond. He directed to ensure the convenience of the people and better environment under the beautification of the ponds. He said that squares and squares are the heart of the city and all the urban body officers should ensure cleanliness and necessary beautification within their area. Chief Medical and Health Officer, Public Health Engineering, Water Resources Department and officers of all urban bodies were present in the meeting.

District president sits in protest with the villagers

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Feb 05: For the past many years, under the protection of the Forester and Range Officer, by the forest guard posted to protect the forests in the forest, economic benefits were being earned by engaging in illegal felling of green trees of Vananchal area. Many times the angry villagers tried to catch them by guerilla means, but due to departmental protection, every time the forest guard Vishram Ladekar was saved.



The case is of room number 556 Pari Kshetra Bor Talav. During the construction of the pond in

village Ghortlav, the residents of the affected area were successful in disclosing illegal logging and construction against the rules by taking a pledge to protect the forests. In view of the seriousness of the case, the forest guard was

suspended with immediate effect. Seeing that action was not taken against the forest guards and regional forest officers of Ghortlav area, dependent of Gram Panchayat Bhagwan Tola, action was taken by the District

President Bhavesh Singh on the request of the villagers from morning till sitting on dharna and forcing departmental officers to take action. On being informed about the matter, on the instructions of MLA Daleshwar Sahu,

Budget discussion organized in CU

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 05: An enlightening discussion session 'Post Budget Discussion, 2022' was organized in the Department of Economics of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University). More than a hundred participants participated in this program organized under the guidance of University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal.

At beginning of the program the , the Chief Patron, the Vice Chancellor, Alok Kumar Chakrawal, while welcoming all the guests, briefly highlighted the main points of the budget. In the program, the speaker, Prof.

Mohd. Muzammil presented his views. Prof. Mohd. Muzammil told in particular, 80 Lakh Accessible Houses, and moving towards digitization with 100% availability of fiber optics in rural areas, linking post offices and banks Under Financial Inclusion Development is envisaged. In view of the circumstances arising out of the current global pandemic, health has been given the highest priority. He said that creation of infrastructure will create employment through backward linkage and forward linkage. The program was convened by Professor Manisha Dubey and the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Ravindra Sharma.

Dr Gitesh Amrohit appointed as member in the Standardisation Samiti of Chhattisgarhi language

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Feb 05: A talented youth of city Dr Gitesh Amrohit has been included in the standardisation samiti of Chhattisgarhi language. Dr Gitesh Kumar Amrohit apart from being a doctors, is also a linguist with expertise in Hindi and Chhattisgarhi. Many a books written by Dr Amrohit are part of the course in many universities of the state. After formation of state, Chhattisgarhi dialect got the status of official language and in order to make it part of state's working and bringing it into practical usage, its standardisation was being felt for long. So after long pause, finally the standardisation of Chhattisgarhi language is being done and it is the Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog who is developing of

**Dr Gitesh Amrohit**

pronunciation of words in Chhattisgarhi was done in separate manner and style in different parts of the state. But now since the standardisation of Chhattisgarhi language has been started and for which the Culture Department of the state government has formed standardisation samiti for Chhattisgarhi language and its grammar.

Members of the Committee: The 10 members of the Standardisation Samiti are - Dr Anil Bhatpahari Secretary Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog (GRA), Vice Chancellor Pt. RSU Dr Kesari Lal Verma, Padam Shri Dr Surendra Dubey, Linguist Dr Sudhir Sharma, Dr Chitranjan Kar, Dr Vinay Kumar Pathak and others and they will work on standardisation of Chhattisgarhi grammar and words and its meaning.

Farmer stages protest due to non-procurement of paddy

● Seek permission for self-immolation

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Feb 05: A farmer of the region has asked for permission for self-immolation due to non-procurement of paddy in the centers here. As per information paddy procurement is in the final stage and Narayan Kewat, a farmer of Changeri village of Marwahi tehsil, annoyed by the obstinate attitude of the administration, filed a sit-in protest and requested SDM to perform self-immolation, after which SDM Marwahi investigated and got the situation under control. Farmer Narayan Kewat told in his application that he does farming and has a family to look after and



every year he sells 60 quintals of paddy in cooperative society but this year records are showing he sold only 12 quintals of paddy. In demanding correction to Tehsildar Marwahi on 24th December, he did not get any concrete answer from the administration, then only in compulsion, he applied to Marwahi SDM for permission to self-immolate, he said. According to Hiteshwari Baghe, S D M Marwahi the farmer's application has been received, and it has been resolved.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India

Vyapar Vihar Branch: Zone-1, Plot-22, Vyapar Vihar, Bilaspur - 495004 (C.G.) Phone: 07752-262404

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, (Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Vyapar Vihar Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice on the dates, mentioned against each Account (given below) calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notices / date of receipt of the said notices. The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees and the public in general that the undersigned has taken of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below.

The Borrowers' / Guarantors' / Mortgagee's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of India for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the Propertie	Demand Notice	Amount Due
1.	Mrs. Dayawati Tigga W/o. Mr. Fuljems Tigga, House No. 140, Mahima Nagar, Sirgitti, Bilaspur (C.G.)	Equitable Mortgage of immovable property of freehold diverted land and Residential building situated at Khasra No. 636/97, P.H. No. 23, Ward No. 07, Mahima Nagar, Near Santo Singh Memorial School, Mouza- Sirgitti, Block- Bilha, RNM- Bilaspur, Tah & Dist.- Bilaspur, Admeasuring- 4375 Sq Ft. In the name of Mrs. Dayawati Tigga W/o. Mr. Fuljems Tigga (guarantor) Boundaries: North- House of Tigga ji, South- House of prajapati ji, East- 20' RCC Road, West- House of Deshpandey ji.	19.08.2020 Possession Notice 01.02.2022	₹ 18,42,578.12 + uncharged interest thereon
2.	M/s. R.B. Agro & Suppliers and or Prop. Mr. Ishwar Das Mundra S/o. Ballav Das Mundra, B-101, Usha Haritage, Vaishali Nagar, Phase-2, Shrikant Verma marg behind Mousaji Sweets, Bilaspur (C.G.)	Equitable Mortgage of immovable property of freehold diverted land open plot situated at Khasra No. 1361/90, (1362/91, 1366/88, 1372/101), Plot No. 10/39, sheet No. 20, block no. 12, PH No. 22/34, Mouza- Torwa, Block-Bilha, Bilaspur, Owned by- Mrs. Krishna Choudhary w/o. Tuls Das Choudhary, admeasuring 2320 sqft and hypothecation of entire Stock of Raw Material, store, spare finished goods as bilaspur. Boundaries: North- Land of Vinod Singh, South- Road, East- Land of Vinod Singh, West- Land of others.	04.06.2021 Possession Notice 03.02.2022	₹ 42,50,335.76 + uncharged interest thereon

Date: 05.02.2022, Place : Bilaspur (C.G.) Authorized Officer/Bank of India, Vyapar Vihar



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 306

Challenge for Yogi Adityanath

Yogi Adityanath filed his nomination from the Gorakhpur Urban assembly seat. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressed a rally before filing his nomination at the collectorate office. In his election affidavit, Yogi Adityanath declared assets worth Rs 1,54,94,054. This includes cash in hand, balance of six bank accounts and savings. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister also declared that he owns a Samsung mobile phone worth Rs 12,000, a revolver worth Rs 1,00,000 and a rifle worth Rs 80,000. Voting in Gorakhpur Urban seat will be held in the sixth phase of the UP polls on March 3. Despite Gorakhpur being considered a 'safe' seat to win for Yogi Adityanath, the changed dynamics in society have made the path for Yogi Adityanath challenging. Adityanath is the disciple and successor of Avedyanath, besides being his nephew (on maternal side). Born in 1972, also to a Garhwali Ksatriya family, he got a very early start in politics, competing in a students' union election as an independent candidate, 18 and later was elected in the 1998 national election on a BJP ticket, being the youngest member in the Lok Sabha. In 2017, Yogi was not the chief ministerial candidate. The then UP BJP president Keshav Prasad Maurya was the frontrunner for the top chair in the state. Yogi Adityanath marred his chances. It is most popularly believed that even Modi and Shah were not in his favour, but the RSS put its foot down. His appointment was a great gamble. Because Yogi, despite being a five time MP, was more recognised as the religious head of Gorakhpur Peeth, which has been revered for centuries among Hindus and Muslims alike.

Like Narendra Modi, Yogi had no administrative experience when he was chosen to lead the biggest state in the country. But Modi took to administration like a fish to water. He showed enormous talent not only in managing the bureaucracy but also his own party. Yogi forgot that UP is not Gujarat. In UP, which is still rooted in feudalism, politicians have big egos and are very assertive. They need to be dealt with a lot more finesse and tact. Beyond a point, bureaucrats can't dominate political leaders and this proved to be Yogi's biggest undoing. During the pandemic, several BJP ministers, MPs and MLAs wrote letters and severely criticised their own government. As Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath has had to prove that he is a tough administrator and can run the government effectively and efficiently. In the last four years he has not only neutralized his opponents in the party but also shown a vice-like grip over the administration. Like Modi, nothing moves without his consent, and nobody can afford to cross his path. The hard political fact is, what Yogi does today, others in the BJP do tomorrow. He is also the only one who can compete for headlines with Modi. And ask any BJP leader in any state who are the three speakers guaranteed to attract a crowd, and who all of them want. There's Modi, of course. But the second is Yogi. But Yogi Adityanath is contesting this election from his own turf Gorakhpur and is sure to win the seat. Gorakhpur has been well known for its mafia-style mix of business and politics. This gangsterism, as they demonstrate, expanded in the following decades, with hard competition among politicians cum businessmen and various attempts by state governments to curb or enlist the main protagonists. In the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, gangster rivalries and gory murders became the everyday narrative of local politics. Even today, Gorakhpur remains in backward purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh with less industrialisation and the connected youth like to see industrial development, not just polarisation for winning election.

Impact of boycott

India joined the US-led diplomatic boycott of Beijing's Winter Olympics after China included a soldier who was involved in Galwan skirmish with Indian troops in the torch relay ahead of the Opening Ceremonies. The United States, Canada, Australia and Britain are among the countries that have announced diplomatic boycotts to protest Chinese human rights abuses in Xinjiang. A coalition of nearly two hundred rights groups argues that participating in the Beijing Olympics would be turning a blind eye to these abuses and could be seen as an endorsement of the Chinese Communist Party's authoritarian rule. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), which organizes and oversees the games, has sought to avoid the controversy, reaffirming that it maintains a neutral position on political issues. Experts say it is difficult to measure a boycott's success. Boycotts have impacts in a variety of ways that are almost always indirect, almost always over a relatively extended period of time, and sometimes counterproductive. For example, the Soviet Union didn't leave Afghanistan because of the 1980 boycott, but the boycott eroded the prestige it hoped to gain from the games and signaled growing disapproval of Moscow's actions.

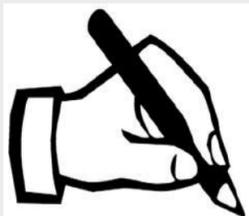
Olympic boycotts and calls for boycotts have been effective in calling global attention to an issue though not necessarily in changing a host nation's behavior. Human rights advocates called for athletes to pull out of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin because of the Nazi rule in Germany. China's foreign ministry has warned of a 'robust response' to any boycotts, including taking unspecified 'countermeasures'. For all the talk of a diplomatic boycott, Chinese leader Xi Jinping has managed to attract a globe-spanning roster of presidents, royals and other dignitaries to the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. The fact that most of them represent countries that are unlikely to win any medals if they're even competing at all doesn't seem to matter. While the decisions to keep officials away have dented the 'propaganda coup' that Xi might have hoped for, the number of leaders that China has managed to attract is nevertheless testament to the country's growing economic clout. Tournament of sports is secondary, but geopolitical impact can long lasting. India has taken a principled stand to boycott shows the belief in democracy.

BALLOON WARMING



A man warms up the air inside a hot air balloon during a hot air balloon festival held in Penaflo, on the outskirts of Santiago, Chile.

Homegardens natural solution for climate change mitigation

ARATHI MENON

Long before global warming became a topic of hot discourse worldwide, certain traditional practices of humans, like homegardens, have served as natural ways to maintain environmental equilibrium. Homegardens are defined as intimate, multistoried combinations of various trees, plants, herbs and crops, sometimes in association with domestic animals, around the homestead. They cannot be confused with ornamental manicured (home) gardens with exotic and non-native species. A popular practice in many parts of South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and Africa, homegardens are left to grow wild, around homes and sustain their owners with everything from food and fuel to shade during summer months. Beyond what is apparent, these tropical homegardens provide a range of invisible ecosystem services such as holding species diversity, acting as carbon sinks and windbreaks, replenishing water tables and managing hydrological cycles.

Homegardens are a type of land use system developed mostly by subsistence farmers. The south Indian state of Kerala has a tradition of homegardens that has served as a topic of study for researchers in different parts of the world, particularly for the biodiversity they hold, says B Mohan Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Arunachal University of Studies who co-authored the book on homegardens in Kerala titled Tropical Homegardens: A Time-Tested Example of Sustainable Agroforestry. He explains that these

homegardens have traditionally been a type of agroforestry and are similar to the homegardens found extensively in Sri Lanka and Java in Indonesia. In most cases, these intensively managed systems form the main source of nutrition and income for the household. But what truly sets the Kerala homegardens apart, is the diversity of species. Kerala-based environmentalist KV Dayal has developed a unique homegarden in his 1.5-acre land following an agroecological design wherein 10 percent of the land is maintained as a natural ecosystem with a manmade hill and a pond, while 90 percent is a cultivated ecosystem or a food forest.

This mini-forest around his home fulfills fivefold objectives of acting as windbreaks, replenishing groundwater table, providing food for all living things that depend on it, conserving biodiversity and creating a microclimate. Dayal's homegarden boasts of over 200 species of trees, plants and herbs, a variety of avifauna, animals like monitor lizards, civets, and insects and reptiles. A study on the biodiversity of 75 homegardens in Kerala, revealed that the biodiversity of homegardens studied was comparable with natural forested regions in the area. A study published in 2021 conducted on a one-hectare area of homegardens in Kerala found that 992 trees from 66 species belonging to 31 families of which four were endemic and one each were vulnerable and endangered. The diversity indices obtained were closer to those of a forest ecosystem. What does it mean? The species density of a land-use system can determine the carbon sequestration potential of the system. Homegardens with high species density is found to have better soil organic carbon stock, making them a key ally in our efforts to reduce carbon in the atmosphere. 'Sunlight is the life of the soil. It reaches the soil through photosynthesis in plants. Plants act as carriers of carbon to the soil. The carbon that needs to be in the soil to nourish it is now in the air, leading to global warming,' illustrates Dayal. Since sun-

light is a fundamental natural resource, the idea of his homegarden is to capture it fully through trees and plants and make the most of it.

The 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report breaks the ecosystem services of nature into four categories provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control, cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits and supporting services such as nutrient cycling. Homegardens in Kerala tick all these boxes. Mohan Kumar lists a range of contributions that homegardens provide people. 'Provisioning services include food production in terms of fruits, nuts, grains, herbs and medicines. Traditionally, fuelwood for the kitchen came from the homegarden and served as an important source of domestic energy. Homegardens also provide timber as a source of income, medicines for home use and cut and carry fodder for the livestock,' he elaborates. In the book Tropical Homegardens, he writes about how homegardens provide various supporting and regulative services as well. 'Climate change has emerged as a major environmental problem at the turn of the century. The principal reason is the rising carbon levels in the atmosphere. The best way to mitigate this is by trapping carbon in the air with the help of vegetation or biomass,' says Kumar. The carbon thus trapped will increase the organic carbon in the soil, thereby improving the health of the soil. Homegardens, thus have the potential to sequester carbon.

In his studies on home gardens, Kumar finds that the carbon concentration above the ground in homegardens was 60 to 70 tonnes of carbon per hectare and the organic carbon stock in the soil was 80-100 tonnes carbon per hectare in 1m depth of soil. It reaches the soil through photosynthesis in plants. Plants act as carriers of carbon to the soil. The carbon that needs to be in the soil to nourish it is now in the air, leading to global warming,' illustrates Dayal. Since sun-

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(Arathi Menon writes on ecological policy, based in Mysuru, Karnataka)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Loopholes remain

The Parliament in winter session had passed the "Election Laws (Amendment) Bill (2021)" which facilitates the linking of a person's Aadhaar number with electoral roll data. This step has been hailed by many as a significant step in bringing about electoral reforms in India. Linking electoral rolls with the Aadhaar ecosystem will help identify duplicate voters, purge the electoral rolls of multiple enrolments, and help put an end to the practice of fraudulent voting. Further, in a nation identified by a high degree of internal migration, where migrants at times find themselves disenfranchised, linking the two could help them in exercising their right to vote. However, the said bill suffers from certain drawbacks as well. Firstly, Aadhaar is only meant to be a digital identity for all residents of India and not citizenship proof. A residence of 182 days can even make a non-citizen eligible for an Aadhaar ID. Secondly, the enrolment processes for voters' lists and Aadhaar are completely different. Whereas Aadhaar enrolment is based on the production of existing documents and the "introducer system", voter enrolments involve physical verification and "house visits" by a registration officer or representative. Thirdly, maintenance of the voters' list is a primary responsibility of the ECI (which is an independent constitutional body) whereas Aadhaar is a government instrument and UIDAI is under government control. Since the ECI has no control over either enrolment or de-duplication in Aadhaar, so it appears that the linking of Aadhaar with electoral rolls may result in a conflict of interest. Moreover, considering the variety of applications where Aadhaar ID finds its usage, linking the same with voter ID may result in possibilities of profiling and targeting of voters. In view of the above-mentioned reasons, it can be concluded that although the passage of the Bill is a welcome electoral reform, the associated loopholes need to be plugged in so that it achieves its intended objective.

Mihir Kumar, via email

Remains mystery

Centuries have rolled by since the lifetime of one of the chief founding proponents and the Pitamaha of Carnatic music Saint Purandara Dasa, but his birthplace still remains a mystery. In fact, to explore definitive archaeological evidence regarding the birthplace of this great composer, the Karnataka government undertook some field research work during the summer of 2020. However, to date neither has there been any concrete evidence nor any update on this research work that would end all speculations about the composer's birthplace. Inscriptional evidence strongly suggests that Purandara Dasa was born in 1484 CE at Keshavapura in Tirthahalli, Karnataka. Though there were theories that his native town was Purandaragad near Pune, it was later considered a historical mistake. Purandara Dasa was a wealthy diamond merchant from Karnataka who gave away all his material riches to become a Hindu monk. His compositions are mostly in Kannada and some are in Sanskrit too. These details add credence to Purandara Dasa's birthplace at Keshavapura and confirm that the mystic poet wholly belonged to the State of Karnataka. Many may know that it was Purandara Dasa who structured the graded exercises of svaravalis and alankaras in Carnatic music and introduced the raga mayamalavagowla, which is the first scale to be learnt by beginners in the field.

Ranganathan, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Arshia Malik@arshiaunis**

Education is supposed to lead learners from darkness to light; from regression to progress; how can a medieval symbol of backwardness, disempowerment & patriarchy be given place in a temple of learning? Constitutional arguments mean that the Constitution should defend regression?

Amar Sidhu@amarsidhu_

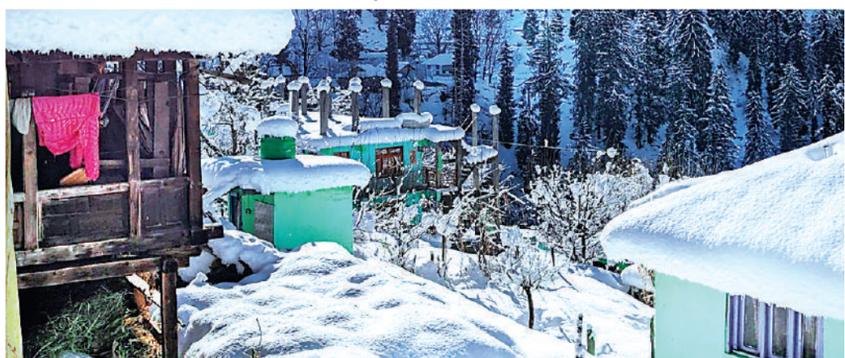
Indians don't value autonomy. From family structures to social norms to education and political eco-systems, everything is geared around creating dependence. One of the major factors our society is stuck in a rut.

**Hardik Rajgor@Hardism**

China deciding to honour its Galwan soldier is not surprising, any self respecting country would do it. China is not confused, they want to be openly rude to India. It is India that lacks clarity, first supporting the Olympics & then diplomatically boycotting after a bloody nose.

Dr. Ajayita@DoctorAjayita

Winter paradise...Himachal.

**Raj S@ Discourse Dancer**

What India needs is to understand how feudalistic all her institutions are and then a push not unlike the civil rights movements in US to truly diversify the makeup of all of India's power-chambers political and otherwise. Integrity depends on diversity of people that make it up.

**shruti@artyshruti**

If you are very picky or emotional about people using your personal pictures including your kids. Best idea would be to not share children's pictures. Yes it's very wrong for anyone to take screenshots of people's Instagram & make fun but then it's best to not share too much.

Akshat@Akshat_World

What's the point of launching India's Central Bank Digital Currency? Most money is digital (it is a note - a ledger- with the RBI). Government controls this node (therefore, it can freeze your accounts). Government's blockchain won't give you/me any autonomy.

SCBA REQUESTS CJI

'Resume full physical hearing in SC'

New Delhi, Feb 05 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Saturday requested Chief Justice of India N V Ramana that physical hearings in the apex court be reassumed to the pre-pandemic level as the COVID-19 situation is in control and stressed that open court hearing is both the "convention and constitutional requirement". In a letter addressed to the CJI, SCBA president Vikas Singh said the positivity rate in the national capital has come down to below four per cent and the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has decided to reopen schools, colleges and gyms here with effect from February 7.

The apex court is presently hearing matters virtually after the number

of COVID-19 cases started rising in December last year due to the Omicron variant of the virus.

The letter said due to the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the apex court had started hearing matters virtually and from November 9 last year, it had commenced physical hearing on three days - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - in a week.

The hearing in open court is both the convention and a constitutional requirement in the Supreme Court. It is, therefore, requested that the physical hearing in Supreme Court be resumed forthwith as it was pre-pandemic, said the letter, a copy of which has also been sent to the five senior-most judges of the top court.

It said pandemic in the country has been very

much in control in the last two weeks and in Delhi and the positivity rate has come down to 3.85 percent as on date. The letter said that offices are now allowed to function with 100 percent capacity in Delhi and school for nursery to class 8th will reopen from February 14.

In these circumstances, there is no justification to not open the Supreme Court for full physical hearing on all five days forthwith, it said. The SCBA president has said in the letter that as has been demonstrated in the earlier phase of physical hearing in the apex court in November and December 2021, the lawyers will continue wearing masks and abide by the COVID protocol as long as the same is in place.

Singh has also referred

to his January 6 letter addressed to the CJI in which he had raised concerns over the non-consideration of several urgent pending issues of the bar.

The letter said on January 18, a meeting was convened between the five senior-most judges of the apex court and the SCBA's executive committee (EC) to discuss the issue of muting or unmuting lawyers during a virtual hearing. It said other issues of the bar, as mentioned in the previous letter, were kept in abeyance with an assurance that those issues would be taken up immediately when the situation would become better. Singh said that based on the assurance, the unanimous decision of the SCBA EC to hold a candle march raising grievances of the bar was kept in abeyance.

BASANT PANCHAMI CELEBRATIONS

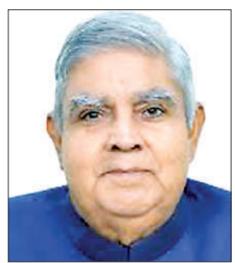


School teachers pose for photos while wearing yellow color dresses and holding kites on the occasion of Basant Panchmi in Patiala, Saturday.

'WB govt proposal for appointment of information commissioners flawed'

Kolkata, Feb 05 (PTI):

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said the state government's recommendation for appointment of former director general of police Virendra and ex-additional chief secretary Naveen Prakash as information commissioners is "flawed". The governor also attached with his tweet a letter he had written on December 6 noting that people from different walks of life had responded to the advertisement for appointment to the post of state Information Commissioner of West Bengal Information Commission. "Govt seeks appointment of Ex DGP Virendra now Chairman WB Police



Jagdeep Dhankhar

Recruitment Board & Ex ACS Naveen Prakash now Pr Adv (Infrastructure) as Information Commissioners. Recommendation flawed in view of Supreme Court directives. Response sought on Dec 6 awaited," he tweeted. In the letter that he had earlier written to the gov-

ernment, Dhankhar had said that apart from the claims that the respective bio-data of the two fulfil the criteria for appointment to the post, the minutes (of state government communication) do not refer to any other aspect.

"Neither the minutes nor the recommendations can be reckoned in conformity of the binding directives of the Honourable Supreme Court on the point," he wrote in the letter. Dhankhar, who had continued run-ins with the government on various issues, including a bill on bifurcation of Howrah Municipal Corporation to form Bally Municipality, iterated on the microblogging site that no file was pending at his end.

RSS defamation case

Trial against Rahul Gandhi to begin from Feb 10

Thane, Feb 05 (PTI):

A court at Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday set February 10 as the date of commencement of day-to-day trial in the defamation case filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by an activist of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The court was scheduled to begin the trial in the case from today. But counsel for the complainant requested the court to postpone it saying his client was out of town for personal reasons.

In his order, civil court judge and judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) at

Bhiwandi, J V Paliwal, fixed February 10 as the date of commencement of trial. Advocate Prabodh Jaywant, counsel for RSS activist Rajesh Kunte, who is the complainant in the case, submitted in the court that since his client was out of town for personal reasons, trial be postponed.

Rahul Gandhi's counsel, advocate Narayan Iyer, told the court that his client was busy with the Assembly elections in Goa, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. He, however, said the court can nevertheless go ahead with the proceedings. After hearing both the sides, the court postponed the trial.

'Mumbai's traffic congestion breaks marriages'

Mumbai, Feb 05 (PTI):

Traffic jams deny 'family time' to people and cause three per cent of divorces in Mumbai, former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta Fadnavis has claimed. The remark drew ridicule from the Shiv Sena, which controls the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Amruta Fadnavis made the comment after attending a function organised by a local BJP unit on Friday. She was asked by reporters about the condition of roads in the city.

"...I am saying this as a common citizen because I see potholes and traffic jams daily. Do you know



Amruta Fadnavis

how many divorces are taking place because of it in Mumbai? Three per cent," she said.

"People can not find time for their families because of traffic issues, Fadnavis, a banker by profession, added.

Reacting to the remark, Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted, Best (ill)logic of the day award goes to the lady who claims 3 per cent Mumbaikars are divorcing due to traffic on roads. Please take a holiday break rather than having a mind on brake.

Bengaluru families please avoid reading this, can prove fatal for your marriages," Chaturvedi added. Mumbai mayor Kishori Pednekar said that "people associated with BJP are making comments like this." "People are fed up with such comments," she said. Civic polls will be held in Mumbai this year.

IT'S PLAYTIME



Children play with ice after heavy winter stone ice rainfall, in Guwahati, Saturday.

MAJOR SUCCESS

Assam tea seller clears NEET in first attempt

● Set to take admission in AIIMS-Delhi

Barpeta (Assam), Feb 05 (PTI):

It was no mean task juggling studies and serving tea to customers at the shop run by his mother. Rahul Das (24), however, took the challenges in his stride and managed to do both. His hard work has finally paid off as the tea seller from Assam's Bajali district secured a seat at AIIMS-Delhi, having cleared NEET exam in the first attempt.

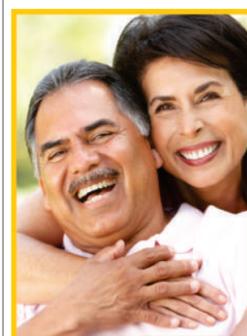
The journey wasn't an easy one. Das and his brother were raised by their mother, who was left alone to fend for herself and two sons by her husband some 11 years ago. Poverty forced Das to quit his studies after Class 12, but he did not give up on

the dream to become a doctor. Das said he would find time to study in between serving customers at his mother's shop in Patacharkuchi Chowk area of the district. "I have seen my mother toil hard for us. We couldn't afford a helper at the shop. Since school, I made it a point to help her in some way or the other... I made tea and sold it, too. And as and when it was possible, I would sit down to study at the shop," he explained.

In 2015, he had cleared the higher secondary examination, and left studies for want of money. However, his zeal for higher education prompted Das to join the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), two years later, to pursue a diploma in plastic engineering. Das passed with a distinction (85 per

cent marks) after three years, and started work at a multi-national company in Guwahati as a 'quality engineer' in October 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There was no job satisfaction at all... I always wanted to be a doctor. One of my cousins is a dental surgeon and he happened to be my inspiration. I decided to leave my job and begin preparations for NEET with whatever resources were available online as I had no money to buy books," he told PTI as customers lined up outside his shop to have a cup of piping hot tea. Das, who has a burn injury on one of his hands, candidly said that he bagged the 12,068th position in NEET, but his Scheduled Caste (SC) and Person with Disabilities (PWD) certificates helped him get through AIIMS.



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'Cong focussed on providing employment'

Aligarh, Feb 05 (PTI):

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said her party does not talk of eliminating haughtiness of people but for providing opportunities for their employment.

The Congress leader made the remark days after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during an election campaign in a western Uttar Pradesh area, said that the khoon ki garmi (haughtiness) of Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal leaders will end after the state assembly results come in. While talking to a



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

man in Aligarh, Priyanka Gandhi quipped, People say someone has been talking of garmi nikalne ki charbi nikalne ki (eliminating haughtiness).

But we (in Congress) are talking of 'bharti' (employment). A number of

youths who are standing here are jobless. Around 12 lakh posts are lying vacant in the government," she added. The UP Congress later in a tweet in Hindi, said, "This time vote for those who start 'bharti' (recruitments/employment) and reject 'charbi nikaalne wale' and 'garmi nikaalne wale' (people professing to end haughtiness, arrogance).

Priyanka Gandhi was in Aligarh to campaign for the party candidates in Iglas and Khair assembly segments of the district. The Congress general secretary also undertook door-to-door contact programmes in Aligarh.

Bengal artist bags top CIMA Award

Kolkata, Feb 05 (PTI):

West Bengal artist Suman Chandra was on Saturday named the winner of the 2022 CIMA Award for his coal dust, brick dust, charcoal, acrylic, and pen and ink on canvas work titled 'Black Grave 2'. The first runner-up award went to Sonal Varshneya (Uttar Pradesh) for her work 'Kissa Goi' and the second runner-up to Akshay Maiti (West Bengal) for his work on terracotta Structural Anatomy.

Chandra received Rs 5 lakh, a trophy, and a solo show while Varshneya and Maiti were given Rs 3 lakh and Rs 2 lakh respectively, along with a trophy each. The awards were

presented by the Centre of International Modern Art (CIMA) in collaboration with Art & Heritage Foundation at a special event held here.

"The art in CIMA Awards 2022 comes from the heart and soul of our country. They express the voices of the young generation of India and are all genuine, powerful and touch your heart and mind and that is what makes this show so exciting," said CIMA director Rakhi Sarkar. Two special jury awards were given to Asis Kumar Mahakhud (Telangana) and Ravi Morya (Delhi). Both received Rs 1 lakh and a trophy each.

Special mention awards (Rs 50,000 and a trophy

each) were given to Sayantan Samanta and Anirban Saha (both from West Bengal), and four merit awards of Rs 25,000 and a trophy each were presented to Jaladhar Naskar (West Bengal), Joydeep Bhattacharjee (Tripura), Satyaranjan Das (Odisha), and Subhankar Bag (Karnataka).

The director's choice awards of Rs 25,000 each went to Karnataka's Yogeesh P Naik and Shivi Yadav (Uttar Pradesh).

The 2022 CIMA Awards honoured veteran modernist Arpita Singh for her contribution to Indian art and Tasneem Zakaria Mehta for her contribution to the restoration and rejuvenation of the Dr

Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai. As part of the CIMA Awards show, the entire collection will be on display at two venues in Kolkata - CIMA Gallery and GEM Cinema till February 27.

For the fourth edition of the awards this year, 183 artworks from across the country were shortlisted for the final. The list of 13 winners and their works was selected by the final jury comprising R M Palaniappan, Manu Parekh, N N Rimzon, Astrid Wege, Kunal Basu, Shreyasi Chatterjee, Paresh Maiti, and Kingshuk Sarkar. Launched in 2014-2015, the CIMA Awards recognise and honour excellence in the visual arts.